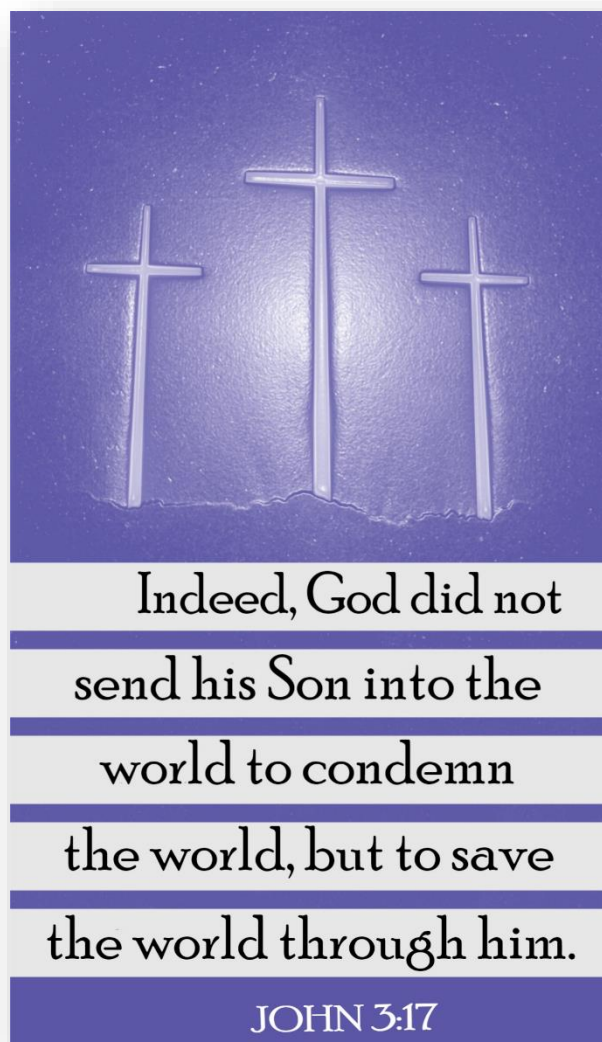


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Appleton, Wisconsin

April 21, 2024 — 8:00 & 9:40 a.m. Services

MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a family of Christians,
Growing in Faith and Reaching out in Love.

POP VISION 2024

We will be...an engaged and inclusive congregation of disciples,
transforming the lives in our community through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.


Welcome to God's House which is the spiritual home of all who come to worship today. Part of Prince of Peace Church's mission statement says that we are "a family of Christians." Because God has made us family, we gather together in this church home to receive the Lord's strength, comfort and peace. Christ, our brother, is here, and his presence will change us. As new people, we leave this spiritual home to go out and live our daily lives in the world as ambassadors for Christ. Go, but remember to come home. See you next Sunday!

We love kids in worship: young ones, old ones, squirmy ones, curious ones, crying ones, happy ones. Jesus loves them, too. In fact, one day when he was trying to explain to a bunch of adults who would enter the Kingdom of God, he plucked a child out of the crowd and said that if they wanted to enter his kingdom, they should be like this wide-eyed child! What an object lesson for us all and what hope, because we are all kids at heart, just trying to follow Jesus.

We know it is sometimes a challenge to care for little kids in worship. That is why we have a couple of options for parents and caregivers this morning. First of all, we have bags of activities on the wooden kiosk near the entrance by the restrooms that children can grab before entering the sanctuary. Secondly, there is a spot for kids to play in our narthex is called the *PrayerGround* which is stocked with toys, books, and comfy chairs. There are speakers projecting the service in the narthex, so caregivers can keep track of what's going on in the service and can listen to and/or rejoin worship anytime. ***NEW: we have a volunteer-staffed nursery during the 9:40 service for those 4 years old and younger that can be used if you wish.*** Just follow the signs or ask an usher for help to find it!

You can find changing tables in the bathrooms near the narthex and the *Prayerground* for your convenience. And, finally, we have ushers and greeters who love kids, too, who were once kids themselves, and who want to help you have a great worship experience! We are glad you are here!

The Glass Cross on the Altar is unique. There are only 3 of these handmade crosses in the world. The other two are in congregations with whom we share our ministry. One is on the altar of Kopano Lutheran Church in Mogwase, South Africa and the other is at the Evangelische Stadtpfarrkirche Hermannstadt in Sibiu, Romania. These Lutheran churches are ministry partners with us with whom we have shared visits, resources, and mutual support. Each Sunday as we gather in worship under this common cross, we are reminded of our faith in our Savior, Jesus the Christ, whose Spirit unites peoples of different countries, races, cultures and histories under His benevolent love.

 **A hearing loop system** is installed in our sanctuary. Those with hearing aid devices may activate their T-Coil technology.

WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Preaching/Presiding Minister	Pastor Roger McQuiston
Assisting Minister	Greg Knudson
Musicians	Sondra Joten, Canticle Choir, John Beyer (Director) Soli Deo Gloria Handbell Choir, Sondra Joten (Director)
Technical Prep/Projection	Tom Richmond; (8:00) Peter Juhl; (9:40) Andy Palmbach
Ushers	(8:00) Jim Genskow, Jim Schweiner (9:40) John & Tricia Kostelny
Greeters	(8:00) Sharyn March (9:40) Gene Begalske
Communion Servers	(8:00) Pam Christianson (9:40) Leah Johnson

GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ELW denotes the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal
P — Pastor A — Assisting Minister C — Congregation

GATHERING MUSIC

Gather Us In

arr. John A. Behnke

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In

ELW 532

Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc
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GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

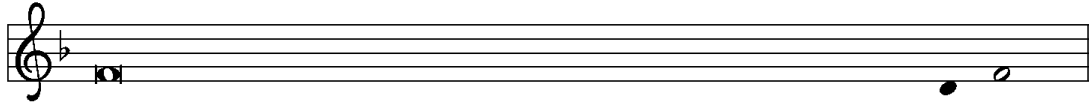
P And now, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

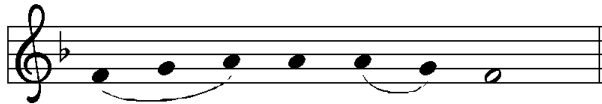
KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE



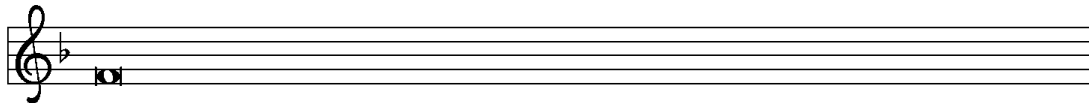
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



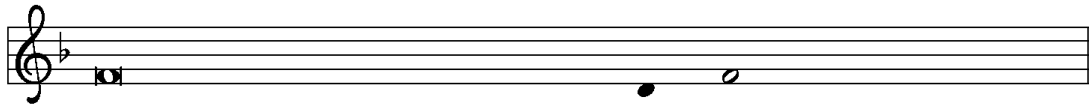
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



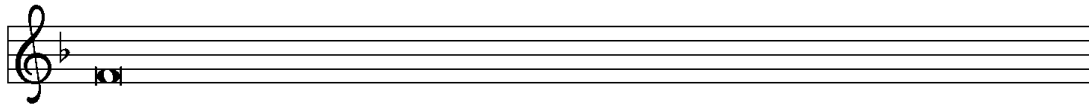
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



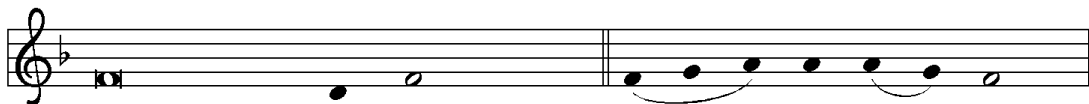
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



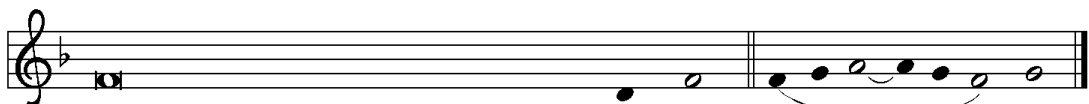
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray. O God our leader and guide,
 C **in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.”

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God’s promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the

adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

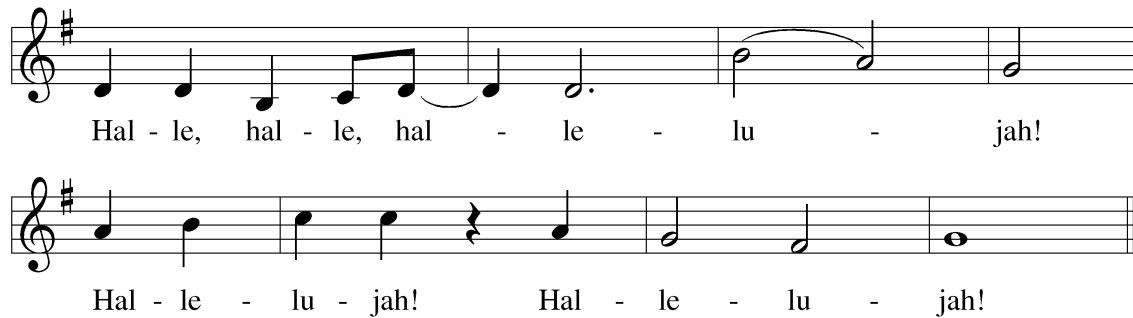
- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"Spoiler Alert!"

Roger McQuiston

Choir

*O Christ the same, through all our story's pages—
 our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
 eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
 unchanging still amid the passing years:
 O living Word, the source of all creation,
 who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
 O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
 we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.*

ALL

O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
 our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
 still as of old upon your body bearing
 the marks of love in triumph glorified.
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven--
 O Prince of life, in all your saving power;
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given:
 we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

ALL

O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
 our lives and loves, our days and years remain;
 our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
 our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
 O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926; © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.
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NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God, begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & SHARING THE PEACE

- P Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.
Petitions end: God of grace,
Response: ...**hear our prayer.**
- P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
- C **Amen.**
- P May the peace of Jesus Christ, the risen Lamb of God, be with you now and always.
- C **And also with you!**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Above All with When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. Sherman

OFFERING PRAYER

- A Let us pray. Risen One,
C **you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Jesus' disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us how to pray." He said to them, "When you pray, say":

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**



In the bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present. Much more reaches down to us through common earthly elements and invites us into the mystery and miracle of a relationship with him, the Word made flesh for us. All, who have been baptized, are invited to this experience of God's love, where He is our host and we are his guests, who will take the message of his love into the world.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Be Still My Soul

arr. Matthew Compton

Choir

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

*leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.*

ALL

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855.
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

P Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant
mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter
hope ☩ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

We Are Called

ELW 720

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain*

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

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DISMISSAL

- A Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
A Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad!
C **Thanks be to God! ALLELUIA!**

FLOWER DONATIONS

Now is the time to sign up to provide flowers
to grace the sanctuary for worship.
You may sign up by clicking the links
on the website, FB, announcements, or the app.
A sign-up sheet is also provided on the Worship
Support bulletin board in the narthex.



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