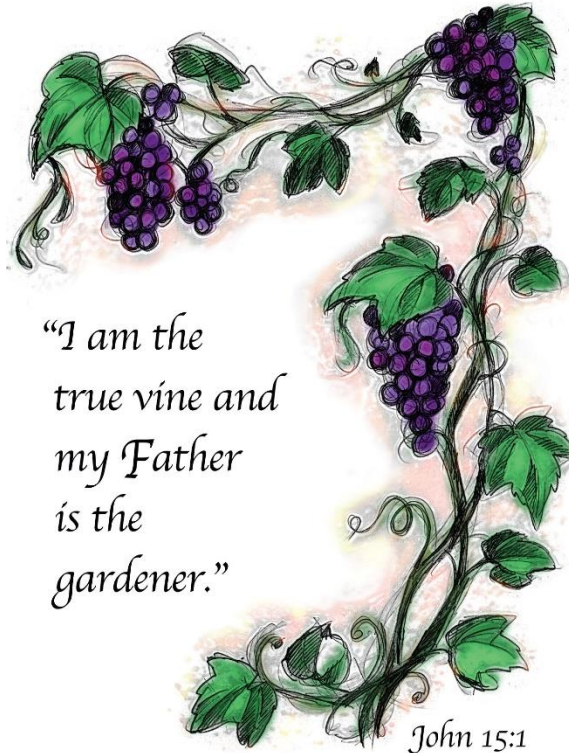


FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



*“I am the
true vine and
my Father
is the
gardener.”*

John 15:1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Appleton, Wisconsin

April 28, 2024 — 8:00 a.m. Service

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 Minister	Pastor Jennifer DeNetz
Presiding Minister	Pastor Roger McQuiston
Assisting Minister	Dean Buffington
Musicians	Sondra Joten, Greg Grunert, Linda Miller (Oboe/English Horn)
Tech Prep/Projection	Tom Richmond/Peter Juhl
Ushers	Jim Genskow, Jim Schweiner
Greeter(s)	Pat Plate, Al & Karen Peckham

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

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

GATHERING MUSIC

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Mark Sedio

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

Now the green blade rises
From the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth
Many days has lain;
Love lives again,
that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green..

In the grave they laid him,
love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would
never wake again;
laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he that for three days
in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead,
my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us
back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead
and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

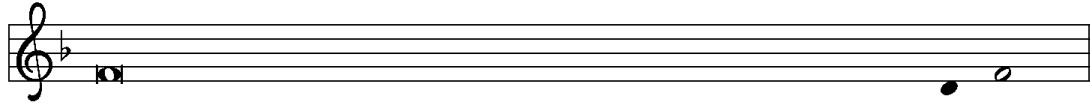
P And now, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

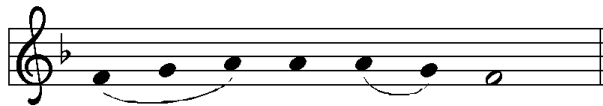
KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE



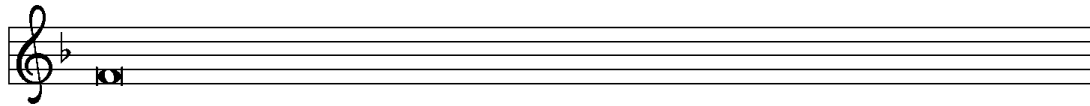
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



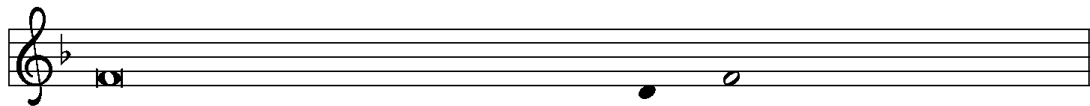
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



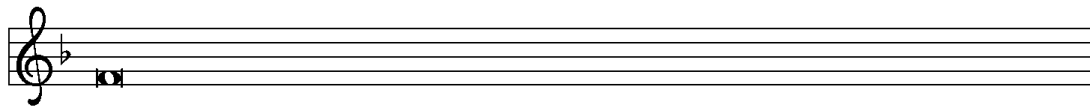
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



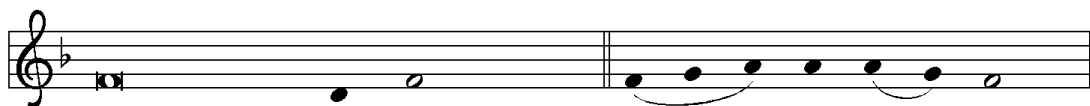
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



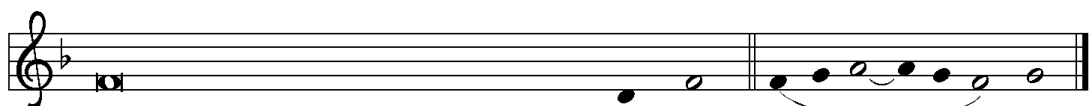
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Final refrain

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God,

C **you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through 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

Romans 6:1-14

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

¹What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not

know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that,

just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for

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

all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you since you are not under law but under grace.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is

the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

- 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!

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

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who

abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Jennifer DeNetz

Lord, speak to us, that we may speak
 in living echoes of your tone;
 as you have sought, so let us seek
 your straying children, lost and lone.

Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead
 the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
 oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed
 your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.

Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach
 the precious truths which you impart;
 and wing our words, that they may reach
 the hidden depths of many a heart.

Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,
 until our very hearts o'erflow
 in kindling thought and glowing word,
 your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt

APOSTLES CREED

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

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

We lift our voices, We lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You:
We are an offering.
Lord, use our voices,
Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours,
We are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be,
We give to You,
We give to You.
We lift our voices, We lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You:
We are an offering,
We are an offering.

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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.**

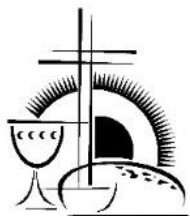
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"

There on its branches
see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own
are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it,
our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives!
its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches
reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness,
give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."

This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590-c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982; Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.
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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

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

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!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Permission to reprint, podcast and/or live stream scripture (New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America/Revised Common Lectionary), worship texts & liturgy obtained under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS000711.

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Congratulations to the following young people
as they reaffirm the vows spoken for them at their baptisms.

They are:



SEBASTIAN THOMAS BROWN
son of Adam and Julie Brown
Baptism: April 26, 2009

John 13:34 — *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*

PETER AARON JUHL
son of Aaron and Stacy Juhl
Baptism: July 26, 2009

Psalm 104:33 — *I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.*

CAMERON LEE SACKETT
son of Stephen and Jodi Sackett
Baptism: July 11, 2009

Psalm 23:1 — *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

JACOB JOHN WOERISHOFER
son of Lindsey Woerishofer & Josh Woerishofer
Baptism: December 18, 2016
Matthew 19:26 — *With God all things are possible.*



Keep them in your prayers today and in the years to come.

SAVE THE DATE!

Encore! Handbell Ensemble in concert at Prince of Peace
Saturday, May 18 at 7 p.m.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday, May 19 – Festival Worship at 8 & 9:40
Wear red!

Last day of Faith Formation.

ANNUAL MEETING

PoP's Annual Meeting is slated for Sunday, May 19 at 11 am.
Your presence as we review the past year and plan for our ministry
in the years to come is VERY important. **See you there!**



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 AM WORSHIP: *Sunday Mornings*
May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend) through September 1 (Labor Day Weekend)

6:15 PM WORSHIP: *Wednesday Evenings*
(May 29-July 31)