

February 1, 2026 – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 am Livestream Liturgy



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

11900 Darnestown Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2210

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The Rev. Steven A. Buechler, Senior Pastor
Danielle Drobny, Pianist & Music Coordinator
Martha Rogers, Administrative Secretary

+ + + THE GATHERING + + +

Prelude: *Alive* - arr. Victor Labenske

Greetings & Announcements

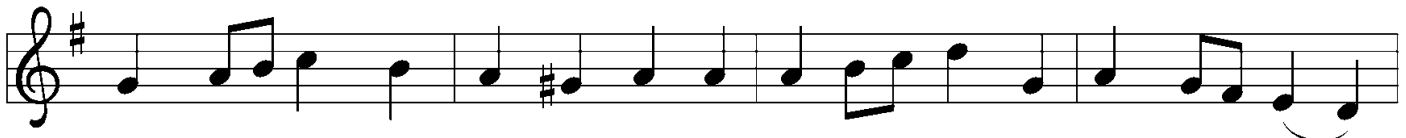
Opening Hymn: "*As We Gather at Your Table*"



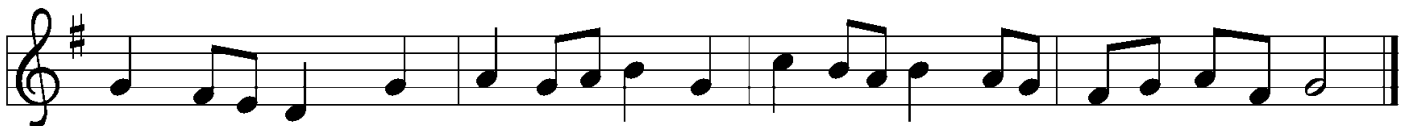
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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- P) 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.**

Hymn of Praise



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

- P) Let us pray ... Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C) Amen.

+++ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +++

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab

devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

R) *The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 15 (Read responsively by whole verse)

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He

is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

R) *The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

P) *The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter.*

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

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P) The Gospel of the Lord.

C) Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn: "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"



- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
- 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
- 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
- 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Apostles' Creed

**C) I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

THE PRAYERS

P) Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition concludes:

P) Lord, in your mercy,

C) Hear our prayer.

P) Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C) Amen.

P) As God's beloved children, let us call to mind our sin and our need for reconciliation with God and one another

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P) Strong and faithful God,
C) **we confess that we have not lived as your holy people in the world.**
We have closed our hearts to your love.
We have resisted your light.
We have failed to proclaim your mercy.
Forgive what we have done and what we have left undone,
heal us with your abundant grace,
and help us walk as children of the light.
Amen.

- P) In the mercy of God, Jesus came into the world to save and forgive us. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C) **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

- P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C) **And also with you.**

The Offering

We encourage everyone to support our ministry together here at Prince of Peace! If possible, [please give electronically](#) or through online banking. If you are worshipping live with us, you may also place your offering in the plate or scan this QR code to give electronically. Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!



The Offertory

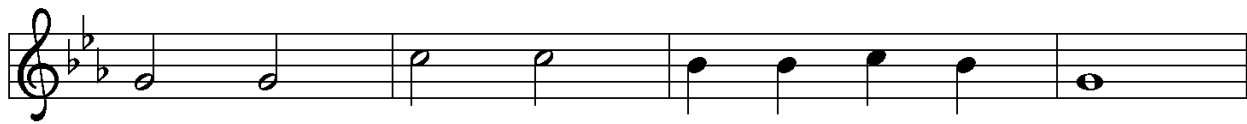
Glorious Day - arr. Carol Tornquist

Offertory Prayer

- P) Let us pray... Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

- P) The Lord be with you.
- C) **And also with you.**
- P) Lift up your hearts.
- C) **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
-
- P) It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

The Eucharistic Prayer for Epiphany

P) Blessed are you, Gracious heavenly Father:
you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful Word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.
Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
By your Spirit bless us and these gifts of bread and wine,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C) Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P) Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Lamb of God



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



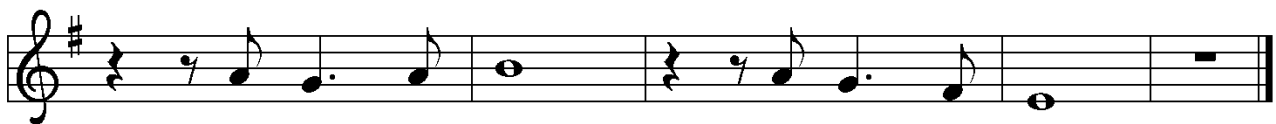
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion

Communion will be distributed by individual glass (red wine; white grape juice) if you are worshipping in person. Gluten free wafers are also available.

If you are worshipping at home, please commune yourself or one another with the words:
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Music During Communion

Who Am I - Mark Hall

- P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C) **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

- P) Let us pray... God of light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this supper we have feasted on your grace. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

The Benediction

- P) God the Father, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless you and + give you peace.
- C) **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Rise Up, O Saints of God"



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Dismissal

- P) Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C) **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Altar flowers are given by Judy Bruening.

Please also join us on:

Sunday, February 8

Worship @ 10:00 am

(in-person & [live stream on Facebook](#))

Sunday School @ 11:00 am

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be TODAY, Sunday, February 1 at 11:15 am (immediately following the worship service). At this meeting, we'll hear about plans for 2026, adopt the budget and elect new Council members. Members are encouraged to attend in-person,

but may also [join by Zoom by clicking this link](#). Everyone is also encouraged to [read the Annual Report by clicking here](#).

Provide warmth and nutrition to the clients of Gaithersburg Help! Bring in your donation of hearty soup, stew, or chili, and vote for your favorite team. Is it the Patriots or the Seahawks? **Drop off your canned goods on February 1 at the Annual Meeting, or February 8, Superbowl Sunday.**

Support PoP Youth by joining us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17, from 6–8 PM in the Fellowship Hall! Come to enjoy an evening of fellowship and a buffet of pancakes, sausage, coffee, and breakfast juices, with gluten-free and dairy-free options available. Free-will donations are welcome (even if you can't attend!) to help Prince of Peace youth get to the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis—our goal is \$1,500; for check or online donations, please write “youth gathering” in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

Youth and families (especially current 8th-11th graders): We need your help to make our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a success! Volunteers are needed to set-up on Sunday, Feb. 15 after Sunday School, and on Tuesday, Feb. 17 for set-up, food prep, bussing tables, clean-up, as well as to donate items. Please sign up [here](#) Questions? Please contact Laura Dillon at 410-562-6942.

Men's Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 pm. The book is *Death in the Jungle: Murder, Betrayal and the Lost Dream of Jonestown* by Candace Fleming. We will meet at Dick Moore's house.

NEW DATE - 2026 Prince of Peace Youth Ski Trip! The Prince of Peace youth ski trip has been rescheduled for March 7-8, 2006. Current 6th-12th graders are invited to join. We'll carpool from PoP on Saturday morning, enjoy an afternoon and evening of fellowship at the Dillon's ski house (including a visit to the rock maze), and return to PoP on Sunday evening after skiing at Wisp earlier in the day. Chaperones (including drivers) are also needed. Find additional information and sign up [here](#).

Calling all 3rd-5th Grade Students! Registration is now open for the DC-Metro and Maryland Synods' elementary school retreat, called "Seekers", at Mar-Lu-Ridge in Jefferson, MD **on March 14-15, 2026.** Cost is \$100. Go [here](#) for more info and to register Please contact Laura Dillon (laldillon@yahoo.com or 410-562-6942) with any questions.

Ladies of Prince of Peace, please mark your calendars for March 19th for a wonderful evening of fellowship, food, and a very special guest speaker. Judith Clark, founder of Women Who Care Ministries, will join us to share her story and offer insight into the mission and work of her ministry. This is a local organization serving our community. Please visit their website or speak with Meredith if you would like more information before the event. Feel free to bring a guest. Part of our goal—along with enjoying time together—is to help inform our community about this remarkable ministry. This will be a potluck gathering. Please follow the link to RSVP and indicate the dish you plan to bring.

Join us weekly after services for the Coffee and Conversation hour after Sunday services, in the sanctuary. To view the schedule, or to sign up to lead a Bible study session this fall, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2025>. We look forward to having you!

Haven Universe “Saturday Night Alive!” These events are hosted for individuals with special needs and their families and friends, many of whom are adults that attend with their caregivers. **“Saturday Night Alive” events will occur on the following dates from 3:00-5:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School: Feb. 7, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16.** Positions for potential volunteers include front desk check-in, AV tech setup/takedown, craft table, merchandise sales, or just mingling with participants. (High school students can also earn SSL hours by volunteering.) Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions.

Food for Thought: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

Prince of Peace welcomes people as they are and embraces all the dimensions of diversity in which God has made us: race, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, physical ability, and cultural and religious backgrounds, among others. We are all loved by God.

Next Sunday's Readings

[Isaiah 58:1-9a](#); [Psalm 112:1-9](#); [1 Corinthians 2:1-12](#); [Matthew 5:13-20](#)

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