

February 8, 2026 – The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 am Livestream Liturgy



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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

+++ THE GATHERING +++

Prelude: *How Can I Keep From Singing with Praise Him! Praise Him!* - arr. Victor Labenske

Greetings & Announcements

Opening Hymn: "Gather Us In"



- 1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
- 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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 ... Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C) Amen.

Bell Choir Anthem

Shall We Gather At the River - arr. Michael Hellman

+++ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +++

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. Why do we

fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

R) *The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-10 (Read responsively by whole verse)

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD

and have great delight in God's commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house,

and their righteousness will last forever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright;

the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending

and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;

their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

Their heart is established and will not shrink,

until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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 5:13-20

Jesus said, You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P) *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

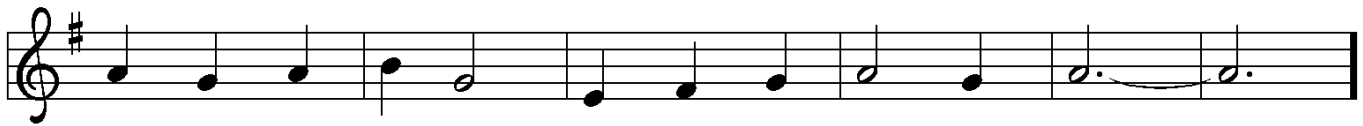
Hymn: "Christ, Be Our Light"



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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

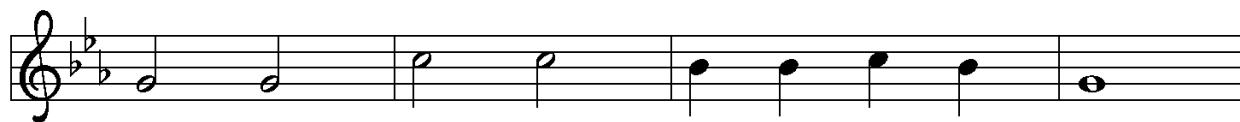
I Give You My Heart - arr. Victor Labenske

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; . .



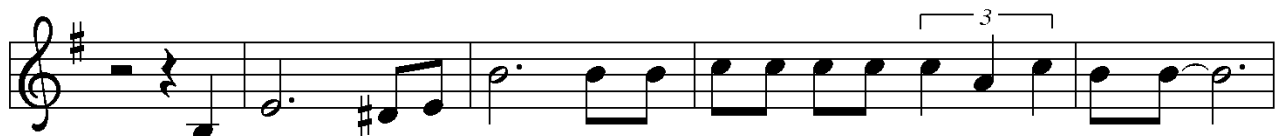
ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



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

Mighty to Save - arr. Bethany K. Smith and Mary McDonald

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

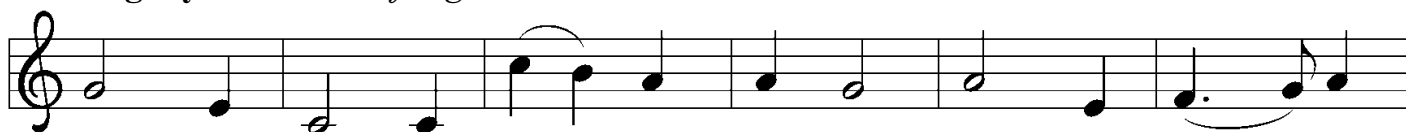
Post-Communion Prayer

- 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: "Lord of Light"



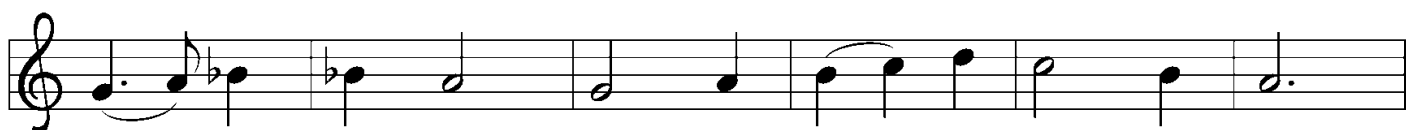
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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Dismissal

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

Postlude

Special thanks to Pr. Wendy Deeben for preaching and leading worship this morning!

Please also join us on:
Sunday, February 15
Worship @ 10:00 am
(in-person & [live stream on Facebook](#))
Sunday School @ 11:00 am

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 by TODAY, 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.

Come join us in person or [livestream](#) as we begin [our Lenten journey](#) at our Ash Wednesday service on February 18 at 7:15 pm! Following Ash Wednesday, we will again hold mid-week services of **Holden Evening Prayer each Wednesday in Lent at 7:15 pm (Feb 25 and March 4, 11, 18 & 25).** There will be either a short program (e.g. Theology on Tap) or Wine & Cheese preceding each service beginning at 6:15 pm.

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: 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: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. *John 15:12*

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

[Exodus 24:12-18](#); [Psalm 99](#); [2 Peter 1:16-21](#); [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

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