

July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
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

Welcome to Prince of Peace! This morning's complete service is printed in this booklet.
A supervised nursery is available during the worship service.

Prelude: *Waiting Here For You* - arr. Larry Shackley

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-ters,
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.**

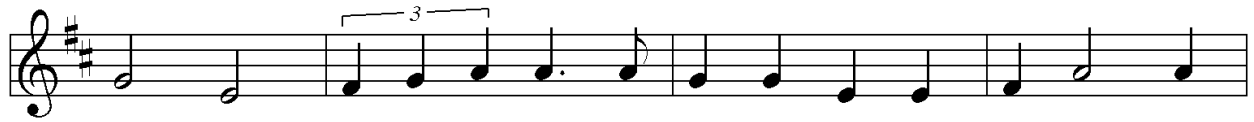
Hymn of Praise



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



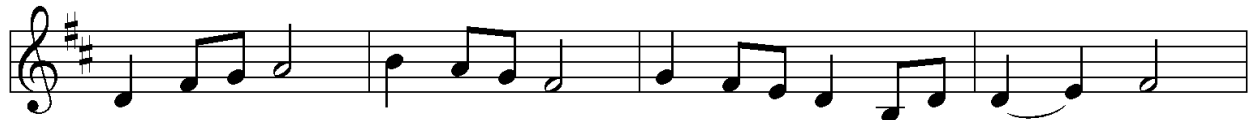
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



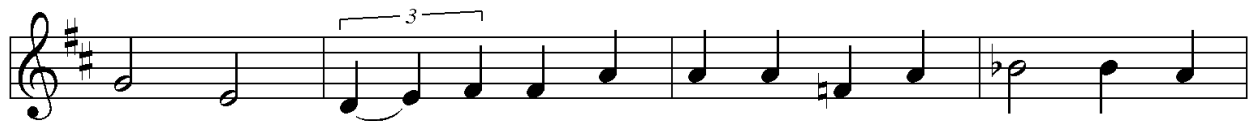
☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



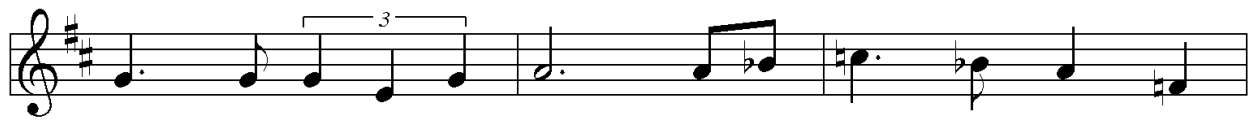
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



I For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
II



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

- P) Let us pray ... Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

Handbell Choir Anthem
All Creatures of Our God and King - William Henry Draper

+ + + **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD** + + +

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

R) The Word of the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136 (Read responsively by whole verse)

Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word is opened it gives light;

it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as you always do to those who love your name.

Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me,

and I will keep your commandments.

Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

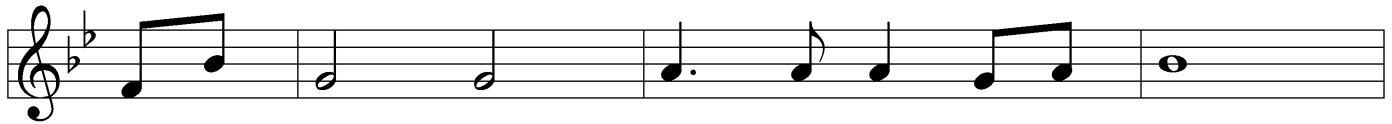
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R) The Word of the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P) The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

C) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

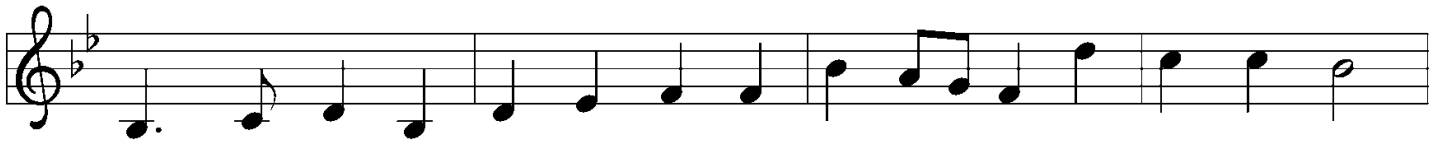
Have you understood all this? They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P) The Gospel of the Lord.

C) Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Sermon

Hymn: *“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”*



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

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) Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A brief silence

- P) Gracious God,
C) **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**
- P) Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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

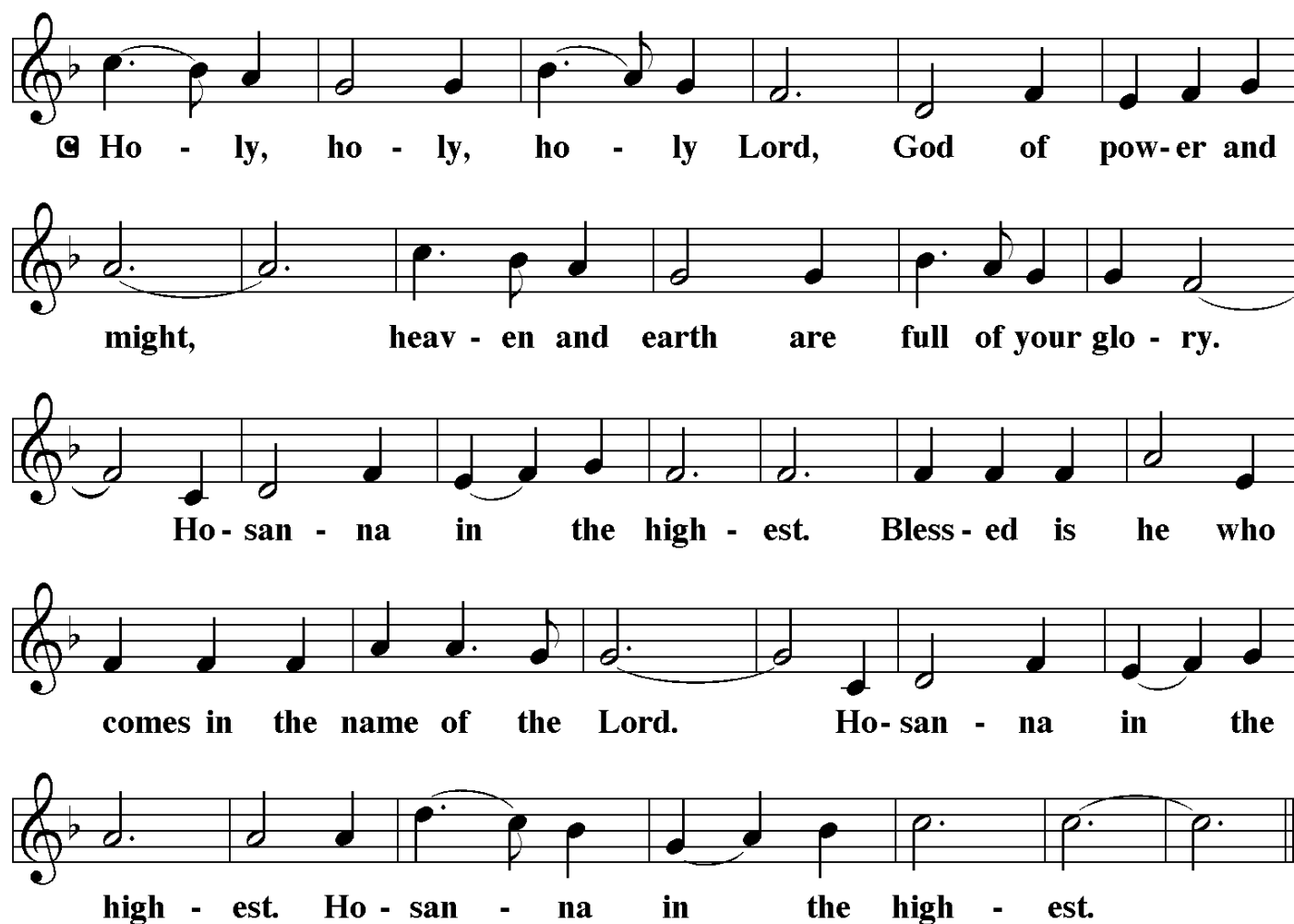
Come to the Altar - arr. Todd Beaney

Offertory Prayer

- P) Let us pray... God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P) Holy God, mighty Lord, Gracious Father,
in the beginning you created heaven and earth.
You gave us the gift of life, and you blessed us with your Spirit,
so that we might have life abundantly.

You loved us throughout the ages,
for even when our sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills, to take our sins upon himself,
and to form us again into your people.

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 acts of healing, his self-offering on the Cross,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when Christ will come again
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with your Son, the Bread of life.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

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.

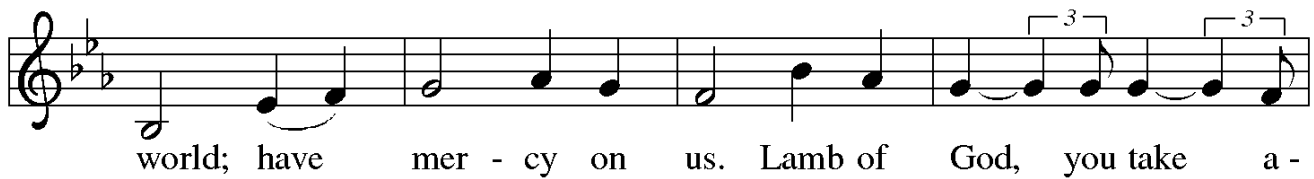
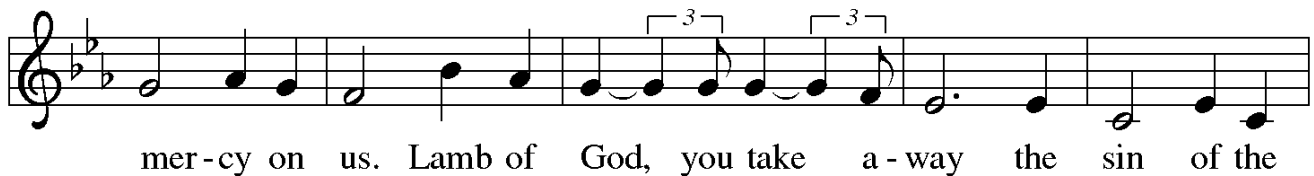
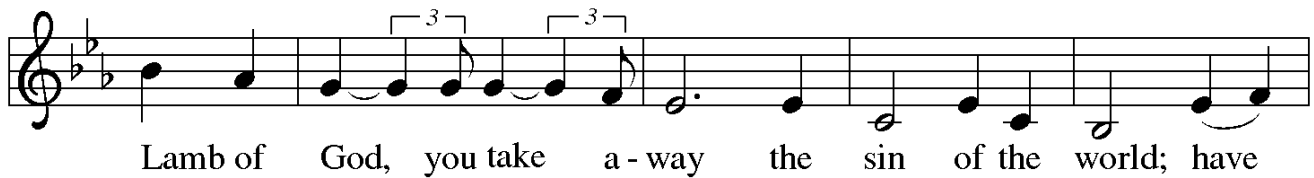
Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Lamb of God



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

Be Thou My Vision - arr. Carlton Forrester

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... O God of love, you bind us to yourself in this sacrament, and strengthen us through this meal for service to the world. Guide us by your Spirit, that we may forever witness to the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C) **Amen.**

The Benediction

P) Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C) **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Seek Ye First"

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

Chords: D, F#m, G, D, G

le - lu - ia, al - le -
 righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

Chords: D, Em, A⁷, D, F#m

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Chords: G, D, G, D, Em, A, D

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Altar flowers are given by Tonya Meyer in memory of her father, Bob Glick.

Please also join us on:

Sunday, August 2

Worship @ 10:00 am

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

Prince of Peace Farmers & Artisans Market is now being held each Thursday through November 19 from 3:30 – 6:30 pm. Come browse and shop through and say hello to the local growers, bakers, makers, and your neighbors while supporting our church community. For more information, email farmersmarket@poplutheran.org

Sign up to volunteer at our Farmers and Artisans Market. [Prince of Peace Lutheran Church: volunteer at farmers market](#)

You're invited! Join us on **Sunday, August 2 at 4:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate **Wendy and Bob Wimmer**—their well-earned **retirement** and the exciting **new chapter** ahead as they move to Asheville, NC. Let's gather for an evening of friendship, stories, laughter, and good wishes as we send them off with love. We hope you can join us in honoring two wonderful people and all the joy and contributions they've brought to our community. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/BobAndWendy> to RSVP and to sign up to bring a dish.

Teachers are relaxing, summer is underway and the The Interfaith Center is already planning for BACK TO SCHOOL!!! InterFaith Works will again be distributing backpacks with **NEW SCHOOL SUPPLIES** for the clients of the **Interfaith Works**.

Please donate to help them get kids in Montgomery County off to a great 2026-2027 school year. Last year Interfaith Works distributed over 2,000 back packs to school aged children. What goes into the backpacks for the various grades can be found [here](#). **School supplies can be left in the box in the Narthex until SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH.** Any questions about the school supply drive, please email LauraCorbinHurst@yahoo.com.

Prince of Peace will prepare another dinner for the residents of Stepping Stones Shelter on Sunday, August 16, 2026. They are so appreciative of the meals that we donate, as these meals

are the main meal of the day for those who live there. We are preparing the same menu as in the past - lasagna, garlic bread, salad, and dessert. We are asking the Congregation to sign up [here](#) to bring garlic bread, salad ingredients, a dessert for 12 people, or a donation to help us buy the delicious lasagna from Gemelli's Italian Market. **If you would like to help organize and deliver the meals on the afternoon of August 16, we would welcome your help with that also.** Thanks in advance for all your help with this important mission!

The Interfaith 5k walk/run sign up is open for Labor Day, September 7, 2026! [Register Here!](#) PoP continues to be a sponsor and supporter of this event and we are hoping to have our largest turnout yet this year. Can we have the largest team?! Please sign up! When you do, please select to join the Prince of Peace team. More information is available at <https://mocointerfaith5k.org/>.

Prince of Peace will be sending a group of youth to the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota from Sunday, June 27 to Friday, July 2, 2027. To be eligible to attend, youth must be in 8th-12th grades during the 2026-27 school year. Please indicate your interest to attend or receive more info at <https://forms.gle/cFLewdX4s8wscaYH6>, or contact Laura Dillon at laldillon@yahoo.com or 410-562-6942 with any questions. **A \$300 deposit is due October 9, 2026.**

Our Memorial Garden has been a place for peaceful remembrance of loved ones and of quiet beauty for our congregation for thirty years. Many members and friends of the congregation have found a permanent resting place in the garden. Council now has plans to add another rock and plaque to the garden. **The total cost is just under \$5,000 - \$1,800 for the rock and \$3,197 for the plaque.** The families of loved ones have donated toward the garden, and there are some funds in the account – however not enough for this project. **Please consider making a donation for the Memorial Garden** by check or directing an online gift. If you have questions or comments, please contact Jennifer Maloney at Maloney.jenn@gmail.com or 301-602-6358.

Prince of Peace has started a WhatsApp group to text PoP-related information and announcements to members. Please join [by clicking this link!](#) Contact [Laura Dillon](#) with any questions.

Food for Thought: As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him...*Psalm 103:13*

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 55:1–5](#); [Psalms 145:8–9, 14–21](#); [Romans 9:1–5](#); [Matthew 14:13–21](#)

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