

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 31, 2024 8:00 a.m



*"Touched by the Gospel, we seek to be instruments of God's Peace,
for the sake of the World."*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1747 W. Milham Avenue ♦ Portage, MI 49024
Pastor Rachel Laughlin
Church phone: 269/343-3453 ♦ fax: 269/343-2025
Website: popportage.org
Prayer-mail: prayer@popportage.org
Find us on Facebook: *Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA*

Welcome in the name of Christ!



Worshipping with kids?

- ❖ We love having people of all ages and abilities worshiping together!
- ❖ There is a family restroom in the Gathering Space and a changing table in the nursery to accommodate your family's needs.
- ❖ Children are invited forward during the Children's sermon, where they can hear the bible story told in words and context they can understand. Older siblings and other friends are welcome to accompany children if that would make them more comfortable.
- ❖ Children's bibles are available in the pews, and ushers can provide children's bulletins upon request.
- ❖ Wiggles and noise are welcome! If your child needs more room to move, feel free to take them to the Playground in the Gathering Space. This area is stocked with quiet activities, coloring pages, and kid-sized furniture.
- ❖ The nursery is also available if active play is more your style. We currently do not have a nursery attendant, so please stay with your child.

Wondering about communion?

- ❖ We believe Christ is fully present in the meal and it is Christ who invites us to share it.
- ❖ All are welcome to share communion with us regardless of age or faith tradition.
- ❖ Gluten free bread and wafers, wine, and grape juice are available.

Want to know more about our community?

- ❖ We strive to be an open, welcoming place for all people.
- ❖ Pastor Rachel enjoys meeting people after worship but never wants anyone to feel pressured to talk to her. Come say hi!
- ❖ Visit the welcome table in the gathering space if you have questions about Lutherans, the Christian faith, or Prince of Peace; if you have a specific prayer request, or want to share your contact information so we can get back to you about something in particular.

Thank you for joining us for worship today. May God bless you and give you peace this week.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold

Sit

Music for the Beginning of Worship "The Archbishop's Fanfare"

Francis Jackson

Welcome

Woman 1: We were there when they arrested him.

Congregation: We denied we knew him.

Woman 2: We were there when they crucified him.

Congregation: We ran away because we were afraid.

Woman 3: We were there when they buried him.

Congregation: We could not bear the sorrow.

Woman 1: We were there early on the first day of the week, taking spices to anoint his body.

Congregation: We were worried about which of us would be next.

Woman 2: We were there to bear witness to the empty tomb and hear the words of the messengers

Woman 3: Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Congregation: **And when you told us your tale, we did not believe.**

Woman 1: But we know our God is the God of new life,

Woman 2: the God of resurrection and second chances.

Woman 3: The God of forgiveness and reconciliation, who breaks the chains of sin and death!

Congregation: **Break open our hearts, O God, to receive you!**

Woman 1: We are here to announce once again,

Woman 2: so that you may believe.

Woman 3: Jesus is alive! He's not in the tomb. He is risen!

All Women: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Congregation: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Stand

Gathering Song

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

No. 365

1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Greeting

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The grace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

Refrain

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God.

Refrain

2 Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever.

Refrain

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Reader: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.

All: Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

Reader: The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation. Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly! The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

All: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

Reader: Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

All: "This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter." I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

Reader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Sung twice



Repeat "Gospel Acclamation" following the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Reading

Mark 16:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- 4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Refrain

- 5 City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!

*Refrain***Apostles' Creed**

Asst: Joining with the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

All: **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

5 Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah; and we
lift our voice be-fore you as a to-ken of our love, hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah.

*After "Risen Lord" worshipers respond "Pour out your Love."
Repeat "Hallelujah" after the completion of the intercessory prayers.*

WE SHARE IN HIS MEAL**Sharing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

*Worshipers share a sign of God's peace with one another,
greeting each other with words like "Peace be with you... And also with you.*

Sit
Offering

Please **date** and complete the fellowship registration pad.

Offering Music

"This Joyful Eastertide"

arr. Paul Bouman

Liturgical Hand Washing

*I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds. – Psalm 26:6-7*

Stand

Offering Response

"This Joyful Eastertide"

No. 391

- 1 This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

- 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Refrain

- 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

Refrain

Offering Prayer

Asst.: Risen One, 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.

All: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Pastor: 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 to you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it 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

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

Invitation to the Meal

Pastor: If you desire to receive what God offers, come to this Table. Come with your faith and your doubt. Come with your questions and your hopes. Come with your grief and your love. Come taste the Lord's goodness. There is room for you here because this is Christ's table. You are welcome.

Sit

Holy Communion - the Lord's Supper

All are welcome at Christ's table regardless of age or membership status. All communion servers will have sanitized their hands before handling the communion elements. Ushers will direct you to come forward. The pastor and assisting minister will distribute the bread (gluten-free) and the other servers will distribute the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Individually packaged gluten free wafers and sets of completely sealed elements (wheat wafer and grape juice) are available on the stands near the bread distributors. You may pick on of those up yourself, if you prefer. You may place your empty cup in the baskets on the tables as you return to your seat.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference to the servers.

Lamb of God

1) Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
2) Lamb of God, you are the way of jus-tice and
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on
peace: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on
us.
us.
3) Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.



Communion Hymn

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty;

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Communion Hymn

"Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the king of creation.

Refrain

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.

Refrain

We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever

Refrain

God has proclaimed the just reward: life for all people, alleluia.

Refrain

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.

Refrain

Table Blessing

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

All: Amen.

Asst.: 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.

All: Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

Stand

Final Blessing

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Thine Is the Glory”

No. 376

- 1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

- 2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting!

Refrain

- 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain

Dismissal

Asst: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Music for the Close of Worship

“Final” from Organ Symphony #1

Louis Vierne

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Today's Servers

March 31, 2024 8:00 am

Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen
Reader: Steve Pendziszewski
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Paul MacNellis, Don Eklov
Sound System: Paul Guthrie
Video Switcher: Paul Swodzinski
Technology Coord.: Mike Whately
Greeters: Sheryl Swodzinski
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Asst.: Emma Janzen, Gail MacNellis, Beth Whately
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Time: Tamara Preston,
Claudia Lee, Idy Stemaly

Next Week's Servers

April 7, 2024

Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen
Reader: Lee Banitt
Acolytes:
Ushers: Kay Kincaid
Sound System:
Video Switcher:
Technology Coord.: Mike Whately
Greeters:
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Fellowship:
Church Lockup: Gail MacNellis



Join us for our
Regular Worship Services
on **Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**
followed by Fellowship Time
with coffee and light refreshments.
To learn more about our community, find the
livestream, or view past services, go to our
website www.popportage.org.

Use this QR code to donate online to
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
and its ministries.
See the Peace Proclamations for more details.



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Church phone: 269/343-3453

Staff

Pastor: Rachel Laughlin-ext. 13
Administrative Asst: Tamara Preston-ext. 10
Accountant: Marilyn Storch-ext. 17
Technology Manager: Mike Whately-ext. 15
Engagement & CF Coord: Em Witteveen-ext 12

Intern: Emma Janzen
Music Director: Janet Hill
Custodian: Steve Haddix
Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org