# PRINCE OF PEACE THOUSAND OAKS

## <u>A. contec The Festival of Pentecost</u> May 28, 2023

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### **PENTECOST + THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

#### WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Christ is risen! Our Easter joy continues for a total of seven weeks. (Really, we celebrate Easter every Sunday – that's actually why we worship on Sunday!) During this season, we hear how Jesus appeared to His followers, teaching them and showing them that He was alive and what it means for us still today. We are so grateful that you are here today and invite you to come back again in the future. Before you leave, please take a moment to fill out a **Connection Card** found on the table where you entered and hand it either to an usher or to Pastor Bater before you leave. Thank you!

#### TODAY'S THEME: JESUS LIVES TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT

Something amazing happened fifty days after the first Easter. On that day, during the Jewish festival called Pentecost, God the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers, and the Spirit gave them special abilities. These followers of Jesus, who had been timid and afraid, stood up boldly and told the good news about what God had done for the world through Jesus Christ. From there, the good news about Jesus began to spread around the world–even all the way to us! Today, fifty days after Easter, we rejoice that the Holy Spirit is still at work among us through God's powerful Word, bringing life to us and then to other people as He speaks the gospel message through us. Praise be to the Spirit of life!

#### **PARTICIPATION & CHILDREN**

Even from their earliest years, children are models of faith for all of us. Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is designed for active

engagement and participation by all, including children. The sights and sounds of active children are a great joy to us and evidence that God is blessing our future even now. We know it's not always easy to keep little ones occupied, but we are here to support you in training up your

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children in the way of the Lord! God bless you in this worthwhile endeavor. **There are coloring and activity sheets for kids on the back table which highlight today's theme.** For ease and your convenience, the entire order of service is printed out on the following pages. The parts in regular font are spoken or sung by the *pastor*. While the parts in **bold** are spoken or sung by the whole **congregation**. Please participate as you are comfortable.

## THE DIVINE SERVICE

#### **OPENING HYMN**

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In" | #590

#### INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

John 20:23

In the name of the Father and of the Son 🖶 and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

#### CONFESSION OF SINS

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

## If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sin with His innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in Him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

#### **OUR LORD'S ABSOLUTION**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.



First published in 1640, this hymn has been a fitting prayer to begin any Divine Service ever since.

#### The Invocation is a

reminder of who we are by recalling the words which were spoken at our baptisms and seeing the sign of Jesus' cross that was made over our head and heart. It is the historic Christian practice to make the sign of the cross upon hearing these words throughout the service whenever the sign of the cross is made.

There is a wide gulf between God in His holiness and us in our sinfulness. We put on clean clothes in the morning to come to church, but more importantly we need a clean heart in the presence of the Lord. So at the very beginning of the Divine Service, we lay our sins on Jesus through confession and are assured that God does not condemn us for our sins, but forgives us for the sake and on account of Jesus.

Because Jesus took away the sins of the world, He authorized His followers to announce His forgiveness to all who repent of their sins. Jesus' forgiveness, proclaimed by His servants, **"absolves"** us, that is, it sets us free from the guilt of our sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son & and of the Holy Spirit.

#### Amen.

#### **DIALOGUE FOR PENTECOST**

Psalm 104

We open with a dialogue of praise for the work of God's Spirit using words from Psalm 104, which is the appointed psalm for Pentecost.

We not praise the Holy Spirit for His creative work but also ask Him to continue bringing life into a broken and dying world. Praise the Lord, my soul. LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

#### LORD, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

How many are your works, LORD!

In wisdom you made them all.

the earth is full of your creatures.

#### LORD, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

All creatures look to you

to give them their good at the proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

#### LORD, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in His works-

He makes winds His messengers,

flames of fire His servants.

#### LORD, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

I will sing to the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to Him,

as I rejoice in the Lord.

#### LORD, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Hail Thee, Festival Day"



This hymn was written by Venatius Fortunatus, a Christian Bishop, in 575 AD. There are alternate verses for the festivals of Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. It has been sung by the Christian Church at the beginning of Pentecost services for nearly 1500 years.

Please join in singing the refrain each time and the verses as you are comfortable. <u>Note:</u> the stanzas are coupled according to their melody - 1,3,5 & 2,4.

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Prayer of the Day

helps us focus on a central theme taken from the Scripture readings of the day. There is a specific Prayer for each Sunday and festival of the church year, many of which are centuries old.

> Today we pray for the "sevenfold gift" of the Spirit. (See Isaiah 11:2 and Revelation 1:4.)

The prophet Ezekiel is given a vision of God's people. Apart from the Lord, there is only a dry desert filled with lifeless bones.

But through the proclamation of God's Word and His accompanying Spirit, death gives way to life!

This is not only the story of Israel but also the story of everyone who has ever been brought to saving faith in Christ, including you.

These words will serve as the basis for today's sermon.

The Lord be with you.

#### And also with you.

#### Let us pray:

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

#### Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Lord, you alone know."



he hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was 🕙 full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.<sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.' "

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet-a vast army.



Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.' "

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

Let Thy Holy Spirit Come upon us, we pray. Alleluia

#### SCRIPTURE READING

hen the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs–we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."



### Acts 2:1-21

"Let Thy Holy Spirit"

As Jesus promised, God the Holy Spirit comes with a special outpouring of blessings. The disciples are then able to proclaim to people from many different nations the amazing things God has done for them.



<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

- "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.
- 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
- I will show wonders in the heaven above 19 and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.
- 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
- 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### Please stand.

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

#### John 7:37-39

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus promises the special deliverance of His Spirit on Pentecost, a Spirit that could be seen and heard in the fire and wind. This Spirit points to Jesus and everlasting life which is found in Him alone.



n the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Peter quotes the prophet Joel to show that the outpouring of His Spirit on Pentecost was God's plan all along in the final days.

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#### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.
But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.
In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
In this Christian Church He daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.
On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Day Full of Grace" | #477

#### SERMON

#### based on Ezekiel 37:1-14

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word (see Romans 10:10).

We confess that true believers in Jesus are found throughout the world, wherever the Word is proclaimed and the Holy Spirit works faith.

These words are the explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed from Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

This section focuses on the Holy Spirit and His sanctifying work.

This classic hymn outlines a number of different "days of grace." The day when Christ was born was a day full of grace. The day when Christ took upon Himself the sins of the world on the cross, was a day full of grace. Today, at the outpouring of God's Spirit on Pentecost, is full of grace. The last day, when Christ returns to rescue His people, will be for them, a day full of grace.

Our guest preacher today is Rev. Michael Bater, retired pastor who served congregations in Wisconsin and Michigan for more than four decades.

#### OFFERING

#### "Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



The Prayer of the Church is the main prayer of the Divine Service. Today, our prayer is a litany written in the mid-1800s that describes the various work attributed to the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture.

#### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Following the Prayer, we will join in praying the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



#### 2 Corinthians 9:7

**If you are a guest with us this morning** we are so happy you're here! Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. While the members of Prince of Peace support this ministry with their gifts, we understand you might want to learn more about us before you choose to do the same. Your gift today is your attendance and we are so grateful for it. We would greatly appreciate it, however, if you would fill out a **Connection Card** (located on the table near the entrance) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Bater following the service.

For those who wish to give a gift, there are a number of ways to do so:

- **An offering plate** is located near the doors where you entered the chapel.
- Text PEACE1 to 1-888-364-4483. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to our secure online giving site where you can choose the amount and frequency of your gift.
- Scan the code to the left with the camera on your smartphone to be redirected to the "Give" page on our website.

## THE SACRAMENT

#### PREFACE

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22



The words of the **Preface** are repeated again to begin the Sacrament. They are rooted in Scripture and have been spoken or sung by Christians to begin the Sacrament portion of the service for over 1800 years.

Together we lift our hearts in faith to our Lord, who comes to us in Holy Communion to give us His saving gifts.

"The Lord be with you" echoes greetings exchanged by God's people throughout the Bible (see Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22).

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

#### We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

#### It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day kept His promise and poured out the Holy Spirit to empower His Church to proclaim the gospel in all the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



#### SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy" | Isaiah 6:1-3; Matthew 21:9

We praise our God using words from the angels around God's throne (Isaiah 6) because our Savior is here with us in a special way in Holy Communion. We also echo the words spoken of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. As Jesus entered on a lowly donkey that day, so He comes to us today in simple bread and wine.

This song is called the **Sanctus,** which is Latin for 'holy.' It is also one of the oldest song of the liturgy already present as early as the turn of the first century.



#### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION "Verba" | Matthew 26:26-28

The Words (Latin: 'verba') of Institution both proclaim the words of Jesus and declare the Sacrament to be what it is: His true body and blood, under the bread and wine, given for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins.

> The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat. This is my # body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood 🕈 of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

#### Amen.

#### **AGNUS DEI**

"Lamb of God" | John 1:29



John the Baptizer once called Jesus the **"Lamb of God."** The innocent death of Christ in our place frees us from sin's guilt and condemnation.

Through His atoning work, we have peace with God. This song is known as the Angus Dei, Latin for 'Lamb of God' and dates back to the 7th century.

\* At the conclusion of the song, please be seated.



Please be seated.

#### ABOUT RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT AT PRINCE OF PEACE:

Prince of Peace participates in the historic practice of **Closed Communion** because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. We ask those who are not members of Prince of Peace to please speak with our pastor before communing. **Membership comes from participating in our Bible Information Class called "Gracebook."** A new class is starting soon! Please speak with Pastor Bater if you're interested and would like to learn more! **Thank you for respecting our Communion practice.** 

#### **RECEIVING A BLESSING:**

Adults and children who are not members of Prince of Peace may come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor. To indicate that you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms in front of you. (If people who are new to our church come forward, the pastor will give them a blessing.)

## FOR OUR GUESTS:



Having received the gracious gift of our Lord's forgiveness in the Body and Blood of Christ, we respond with a prayer of thanksgiving.

#### The **Blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for more than 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" The blessing is not merely a wish; it is the powerful promise of God's love, peace and protection. It is yours. Take it with you today and always!

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

Written in the 8th century, this hymn has been a mainstay on Pentecost Sunday for over a millennium. Additionally, it has been sung to open services of pastoral ordinations and commissioning around the world for more than 800 years.

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

As we consider the work of the Spirit in our lives today and throughout the church in history, we stand in awe of our God and say, "How great thou art!" Written in 1885, this hymn has a rich international history. First written in Swedish, it was then translated into German and from there into Russian. It did not appear in English hymnals until the early twentieth century. And yet, it is regularly listed as one of the most famous and favorite hymns by English speaking Christians.

#### THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

His love endures forever.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Amen.

#### THE LORD'S BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and # give you peace.

#### Amen.

#### "How Great Thou Art" | #612

"Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest" | #586

#### Psalm 118:1

#### Numbers 6:24-26

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THANK YOU

We thank our Lord for ... **all** who are able to worship with us this morning, especially those who are our **guests** today– we pray you were strengthened by God's Word and hope you're able to come back again in the future! ... **Pastor Michael Bater** for serving as our guest preacher this morning to bring us the peace and comfort of Jesus ... **Bob Hatch, Steven Hobbs, and the mini choir** for using their musical gifts to accompany our service ... **Marilyn Reeve** for supplying our altar flowers this morning in honor of those who paid the ultimate price with their lives for our freedoms as Americans ... the **Tucker family** who provided our post-service treats in celebration of Bill (5/13) and Corrine's (5/22) birthdays–Happy birthday you two! ... **the gift of His Spirit who gives us life and renews it every day.** 

#### New Website; SAME Address

Over the past several months, we've invested a lot of time and resources to increase our website's search engine optimization (SEO). In other words, we want people to be able to find us online easier and faster. Go to **www.princeofpeaceto.com** and let us know what you think. What do you like? What are we still missing? Thank you to our outreach chairman, **Brad Besel**, for heading up this project and for keeping the work going.



In the land of a 'thousand oaks,' oak trees are kind of important. So important, in fact, they're even protected by city ordinance which forbids them from being cut down! But did you know oak trees are also important to God? Not only because they are part of His creation but also because God once used oak trees to describe His people. Now, being compared to a tree might not sound like much of a compliment, but think about what God is saying! Oak trees are powerful and majestic; they have deep and strong roots; they are beautifully adorned with leaves to provide shade and comfort for those nearby; they can withstand harsh drought conditions; and all of this happens because they thrive and grow in the presence of the sun.

This is why Prince of Peace exists: to plant and strengthen "oak tree" Christians. We believe this happens when people come into the presence of the Son, Jesus Christ, who draws near to us through His Word (the Bible) and Sacraments (Baptism & Communion). Here the Lord fortifies and deepens the roots of our faith. He gives us endurance and hope to withstand the harsh conditions of living in a broken world. And He beautifully adorns us with His grace, equipping us to serve those around us with love and good deeds.

Thank you for coming this morning. We hope you were comforted by God's Word and strengthened for your walk of faith this week. If you have any questions about our ministry, please speak with Pastor Bater after the service or set a time to meet with him in the future. He would love to get to know you better! He can be reached on his cell at **517.256.0042** or by email at <u>pastor@princeofpeaceto.com</u>. May the loving Savior, our Prince of Peace, be with and bless you throughout the Lenten season!

"Oaks of righteousness ... a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." Isaiah 61:3