



PRINCE OF PEACE THOUSAND OAKS



I DESIRE MERCY



The Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 11, 2023



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Your place to find peace!

www.princeofpeaceto.com

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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!

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST — LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

For the first half of the church year (Dec-May), we observed the great events in the life of Christ. This is sometimes referred to as the “Festival Half” of the church year, where the majority of our high festivals are celebrated. We rejoiced at His birth (Christmas), followed Him in His Lenten walk, stood beneath His cross (Good Friday), celebrated His empty tomb (Easter), acclaimed Him as He ascended to His throne (Ascension), and received His promised Spirit on Pentecost. The second half of the year (June-Nov) has many names but all of them emphasize the life of Christ’s Church which flows out of the accomplished events in Christ’s life. In this season, which officially started last week on Holy Trinity, the church hears the great teachings of Christ and grows in her understanding of the new kingdom He established.

Life in this kingdom is not a solitary existence; Christ has called us into His Church. Throughout this season we’ll learn what that means and looks like. Jesus Himself will tell us what it means, how we are to live, and the characteristics we display to the world. We love God above else, purely because He loved us first. That affects the way we live, what we value, and how we seek to answer our doubts.

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 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

"By Grace I'm Saved" | #575

It is purely by grace, not by our own efforts or morality, that we are saved.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

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

Amen.

The Invocation is a reminder of who we are by recalling the words which were spoken at our baptism. 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.

CONFESSION OF SINS

1 John 1:8,9

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.

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.

*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.*

OUR LORD'S ABSOLUTION

John 20:23

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. 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.

*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.*

KYRIE ELEISON

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Originally, the phrase **'Kyrie eleison'** (Greek words meaning 'Lord, have mercy') was a praise-shout similar to the Hebrew shout 'Hosanna' or the modern 'Amen!' But by the 400s A.D. the phrase was adapted into the Christian church's liturgy.

When used in the Divine Service, the Kyrie is sung in a somber tone, crying to our Lord for His help and mercy in all the needs of this earthly body and life. The petition "Lord, have mercy" is found in many psalms as well as in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. It is always a cry for help in distress, and one our Lord is eager to answer.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



GLORIA

"Glory to God in the Highest "



and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. 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. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

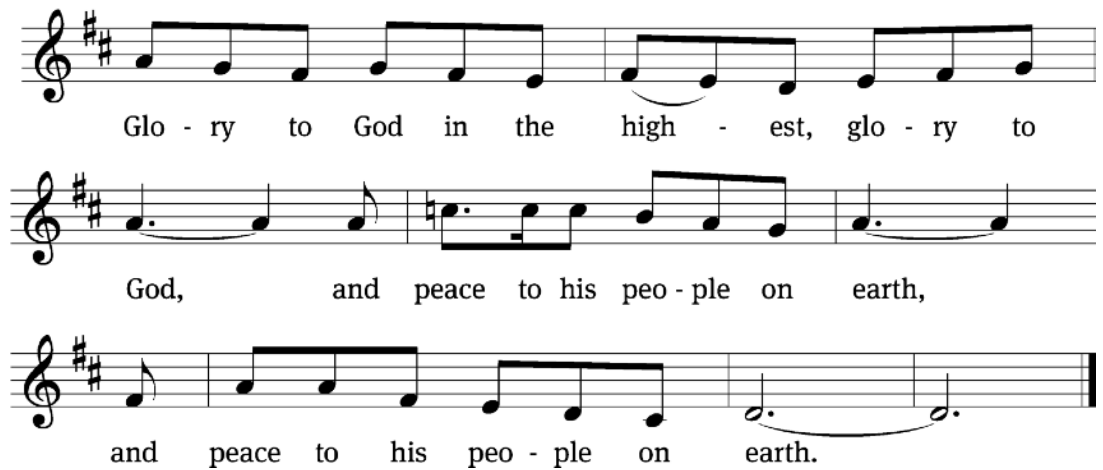
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Gloria immediately follows the Kyrie in a swift change of mood. It is an outburst of joy and praise to the Holy Trinity that lifts the worshiper from thoughts of human need expressed in the Kyrie to the glorification of God's majesty, power, and holiness.

Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice over just one sinner who repents. In response to our Lord's gracious absolution, the Church sings as the angels did on that first Christmas night: "Glory to God in the highest!" (Luke 2:13, 14) which, in Latin, is **Gloria in excelsis Deo**.

Martin Luther rightly said the **Gloria** "did not grow, nor was it made on earth, but it came down from heaven." The earliest known date for the Gloria in a worship service is A.D. 126.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

THE WORD OF GOD



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Almighty and merciful God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hosea 6:1-6

The prophet Hosea has a conversation with the LORD on behalf of the people of Israel.



Come, let us return to the LORD.

- He has torn us to pieces
but he will heal us;
he has injured us
but he will bind up our wounds.
- 2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will restore us,
that we may live in his presence.
- 3 Let us acknowledge the LORD;
let us press on to acknowledge him.
As surely as the sun rises,
he will appear;
he will come to us like the winter rains,
like the spring rains that water the earth."
- 4 "What can I do with you, Ephraim?
What can I do with you, Judah?
Your love is like the morning mist,
like the early dew that disappears.
- 5 Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets,
I killed you with the words of my mouth;
my judgments flashed like lightning upon you.
- 6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Israel begins speaking as Hosea acknowledges that the LORD has cut them with the condemning words of His law. God's judgement is just as Israel's love for God was fleeting.

Starting in verse 4, Hosea now speaks on behalf of the LORD who reiterates His just judgment but then comforts with His desire to show them mercy.

It is interesting that in the final chapter of Hosea, the LORD concludes with this promise to Israel: "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them" (14:4).

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

mercy

FOR I DESIRE MERCY,
AND NOT SACRIFICE

HOSEA 6:6

PSALM OF THE DAY

"Teach Me, O LORD" | Psalm 119C

Psalm 119, is the longest psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible. Our psalm for today includes verses 65-72, which provide us with a thorough meditation on God's Word and encourages us to take it seriously. It is a prayer that disproves the claims of the devil and provides comfort, instruction, and thanksgiving for the believer.

The pastor will introduce the refrain. Please repeat it and elsewhere as noted. Please also join in singing the verses in bold print as you are comfortable.

Refrain



Tone



Do good to your / servant
according to your / Word, LORD.

**Teach me knowledge and good judgment,
for I trust / your commands.
Before I was afflicted I / went astray.
but now I o- / bey your Word. Refrain**

**You are good, and what you / do is good;
teach me / your decrees.**

**It was good for me to be af- / flicted
so that I might learn / your decrees.**

**The law from your mouth is more pre- / cious to me
than thousands of pieces of sil- / ver and gold.**

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

How did Paul, a self-proclaimed blasphemer, persecutor, and violent man become a Christian and apostle? "I was shown mercy."



thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul goes on to give a simple, beautiful expression of the gospel which any and every Christian can say.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13



As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus calls the tax collector, Matthew, to be one of His disciples. This upsets the religious elite of the day which causes Jesus to explain the way God truly operates. He desires to give mercy more than receiving people's sacrifices.

This portion of God's Word will be the basis for today's sermon.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. *continued*

The historic creeds (Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian) are the cherished possession of the entire church down through the ages. The church has maintained the confession of these creeds and has even suffered martyrdom rather than deny the faith confessed in them. Therefore, the use of the historic Christian creeds is a very important part of Lutheran worship.

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.

This modern hymn beautifully expresses how it is that great sinners like Paul, Matthew, you and me can be confident we are loved and forgiven by God. The answer lies 'beneath the cross.'

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Beneath the Cross" | #710

SERMON

based on Matthew 9:9-13

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

OFFERING

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 PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

Each petition of the prayer will conclude this way:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our 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.

The Prayer of the Church is the main prayer of the Divine Service. God has spoken to us through His Scriptures. In faith, we respond by speaking to Him in prayer.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22



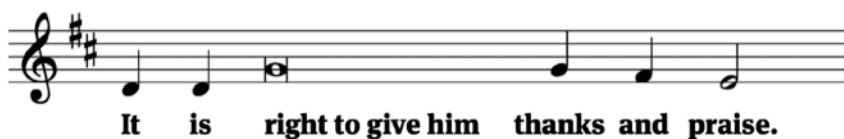
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



*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).

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in His name, there He is with them to shepherd His flock until He comes again in glory. 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.

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

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

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God" | John 1:29



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

*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.*



After the conclusion of this song, please be seated.

FOR OUR GUESTS:



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.)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" | #578

This classic hymn echoes the words St. Paul confessed earlier: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst" (1 Timothy 1:15). It is not our morality or lack of sins that draws the love of God to us. Rather, it is God's desire to show and be merciful that draws Himself close to even the chief and worst of sinners.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord" | #658

Matched with a popular melody, this hymn, written in the 17th century, was recently translated into English. In it, we boldly confess our sins and confident rejoice in God's forgiveness. God delights to show us mercy by announcing our forgiveness through His servant and at His table.

After the Distribution is complete, we conclude with this prayer:

CLOSING PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share in our humanity. We thank you that through Him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 LORD'S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

*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!*

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.

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! ... **Bob Hatch and Steven Hobbs** for using their musical gifts to accompany our service ... the **Carey's** for supplying our altar flowers this morning ... the **Hobbs family** who provided our post-service treats ... **His mercy which is new every morning and always enough to cover even the greatest sins and worst sinners. Thank loving and merciful Lord!**



PRINCE OF PEACE THOUSAND OAKS

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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 pastor@princeofpeaceto.com. 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