

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Disciple Making Community”

“KNOW, GROW, and GO”

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 16, 2024



Our Mission:

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ”

Our Message:

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

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Holy Communion at Prince of Peace, LCMS

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod practices “Close Communion” as an expression of unity in doctrine (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10). When a person partakes of the Sacrament at the Altar he is also confessing his unreserved agreement with that church body’s doctrine. Because of doctrinal differences existing between the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran bodies, and also with other denominations, we cannot expect their members to make that kind of confession at our altar, nor do we desire anyone to compromise his own convictions and his church body’s teachings. Therefore, our practice of “Close Communion” admits only those in doctrinal agreement who are members of congregations of the Missouri Synod.

The Holy Sacrament requires a mature participation which includes self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28). Scripture also warns against “unworthy” reception (impenitence or unbelief) which would bring God’s judgment on the recipient: 1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:29. Thus, out of loving concern for all, and commitment to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we practice “Close Communion”. We thank you for your cooperation and respect for our practice.

Those who will not be communing, but would like to receive a blessing are invited to come forward. Please cross your arms on your chest to indicate that you are requesting a blessing. May the Holy Spirit bless us all as we “Search the Scriptures” (John 5:39), and humbly strive to “Continue in His Word.” (John 8:31) Please speak to an elder if you have questions concerning communion.

Theme

God’s care for all creation is indisputable. He is the Lord of everything, nourishing the seed, sprouting new life. In turn, trees, branches, and foliage provide respite for other species of life. So also, God provides necessary shelter and nourishment for mankind. We live by faith and not by sight beneath His canopy of creation. In blessing or calamity, in fear and in hope, we are declared to be new creatures in Christ Jesus.

Order of Service:

Divine Service 4, p. 203ff

Opening Hymn 901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
Confession and Absolution (LSB p. 203)

Service of the Word **(LSB p.204-207)**

Introit

Psalm 1; antiphon: v. 6

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

¹Blessèd is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

²but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Kyrie **(LSB p.204)**

Hymn of Praise **“Gloria in Excelsis”** **(LSB p.204)**

Salutation and Collect of the Day **(LSB p. 205)**

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting

life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 17:22–24

Ezekiel 17:22–24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
On your wondrous works, I will meditate,
and I will declare your greatness.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:1–17

¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all

appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (LSB p. 205)

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26–34

Mark 4:26–34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.
³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (LSB p. 207)

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day 586 Preach You the Word

Sermon "The Growth of the Kingdom" Mark 4:26-34

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving to the Most High, who has planted His Holy Word among us; and for the Church's healthy growth, that we may weather the storm-winds of this world steadfast in Christ, ever bearing the fruits of love and singing praises to His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word, that by His Spirit it may sprout and grow when and where it pleases God, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this and every congregation, that God's kingdom may be extended and we may have thankful hearts to marvel at His work, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That God would send faithful laborers into His fields to scatter His seed here and abroad, so in due time a harvest may be reaped for His glory, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our homes and families, that the Lord would make the efforts of parents to teach their children fruitful, preserving them in the saving faith of Christ according to His promises, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in every need, [*especially _____*], let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who commune, that the Lord who abounds in steadfast love would give them a holy fear of His wrath and faith in His promises to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all God's servants who groan under the burdens of this earthly tent and long to be clothed with His eternal life, which will swallow up all mortal sorrow [*especially those who mourn _____*]; and that He would give them good courage to walk by faith and not sight, to mourn the dead in the hope of the resurrection, and to make it their aim to please Him while here in the body, until at last we are all at home with Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give You thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their station and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love of Your Word. Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and give them the comfort of Your absolution over all their shortcomings. Gather us together with all our fathers to Your eternal household; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

(LSB p.781)

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

LSB 781



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

(LSB p. 208-212)

Distribution Hymns

892 Come, Ye Thankful People Come

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

500 Creator Spirit, by whose aid

Nunc Dimittis

(LSB p. 211)

Post-Communion Collect

(LSB p. 212)

Benedicamus and Benediction

(LSB p. 212)

Closing Hymn

923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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