

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 Lutheran Church – 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.

Introit

Psalm 27:3-5; antiphon, vs. 1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
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.
The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Blessing of the Processional Cross
.....insert
Opening..... LSB #702
Divine Service, Setting 3 LSB pg. 184
Confession and Absolution...pg.184
Introit..... See bulletin
Kyrie..... pgs. 186
Salutation & Collect See bulletin
Old Testament Readingpg. 190
..... **Numbers 21:4-9**
Gradual See bulletin
Epistle Reading.....pg. 190
..... **Ephesians 2:1-10**
Holy Gospelpg. 190
..... **John 3:14-21**
Nicene Creedpg. 191
Children’s Message
Hymn of the Day LSB #571
Sermon.....”The Cross Is A Must”.
Text: **John 3:14-21**
Offering
Special Music...”There Is a Redeemer”..
(Pop Small Group)
Offertory..... LSB pg. 192-193
Prayer of the Church
Service of the Sacrament..... pg. 194ff
Distribution Hymns.... LSB #542, #744
Nunc Dimittis..... pg. 199-200
Thanksgiving and Prayer.. pgs. 200-201
Salutation and Benedicamus.. pgs. 201
Benediction pgs. 202
Closing..... LSB #837

Gradual**Hebrews 12:2**

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle Reading**Ephesians 2:1-10**

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel Reading**John 3:14-21**

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Disciple Making Community”

“KNOW, GROW, and GO”

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 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”

As We Gather... Moses lifts up a serpent in the wilderness so that Israel might live. Christ is lifted up on a cross so that all who believe in Him may live. Despite God’s unrelenting faithfulness, we may, at times, still loathe His blessings, yearning for something different. But in mercy, God turns toward us in kindness, forgives sin, and grants new life. Finally, in Christ, He gives us absolute grace, saving us from rebellion and preparing us for good works in Him.

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