PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Disciple Making Community"
"KNOW, GROW, and GO"

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 26, 2025

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

Only Jesus sufficiently comprehends and delivers the counsels of God in the purity of the Law and the grace of the Gospel. As sinners, postured to heed God's Word, we are crushed, tear-filled, perceiving mammoth guilt. And yet this is the holy intent of God—confession of sin and repentance unleash the Gospel's joy! Sinners receive undeserved forgiveness; the poor, good news; the captive and oppressed, liberty; and the blind, sight. Jesus offers these things to believing and hardened hearts alike.

Order of Service: **Divine Service 3, p. 184 ff.**

Opening Hymn **836 O God of Light**

Confession and Absolution **(LSB p. 184)**

Service of the Word **(LSB p.186-193)**

Psalm *Psalm 19:7–14; antiphon: v. 14*

[14]Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

[7]The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
[8]the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
[9]the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the just decrees of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.
[10]More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
[11]Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

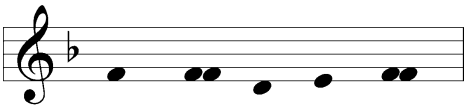
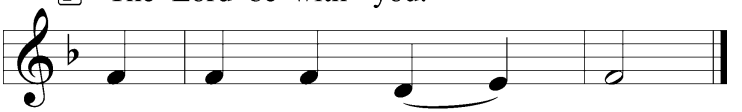
[12]Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
[13]Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

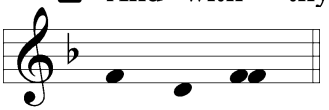
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

[14]Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

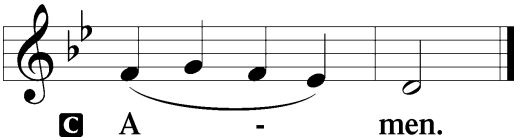
Kyrie (LSB p.186)

Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis (LSB p.187)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spir - it.**



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **A - men.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 *Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10*

[1] All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And
they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had
commanded Israel. [2]So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men
and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the
seventh month. [3]And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from
early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those
who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of
the Law. . . .

[5]And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the
people, and as he opened it all the people stood. [6]And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great
God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they
bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . .

[8]They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so
that the people understood the reading.

[9]And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the
Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your
God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the
Law. [10]Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send
portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not
be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a *1 Corinthians 12:12–31a*

12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the
body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in one Spirit we were all
baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of
one Spirit.

14For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15If the foot should
say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it
any less a part of the body. 16And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do
not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17If the
whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body
were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18But as it is, God arranged the
members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19If all were a single member,
where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

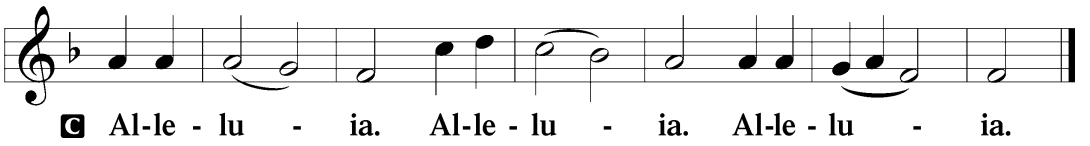
21The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to
the feet, "I have no need of you." 22On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem
to be weaker are indispensable, 23and on those parts of the body that we think less
honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with
greater modesty, 24which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so
composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25that there may
be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one
another. 26If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all
rejoice together.

27Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28And God has
appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles,
then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29Are all
apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30Do all possess
gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31But earnestly desire the
higher gifts.

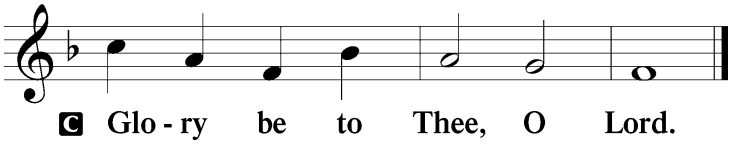
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:16–30 *Luke 4:16–30*

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



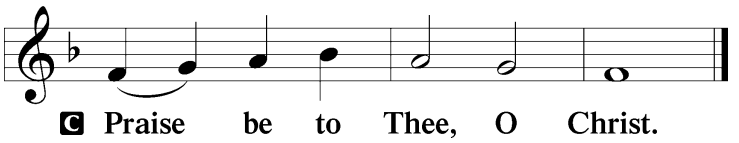
16[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom,
he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17And the
scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the
place where it was written,

18"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the
eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21And he began to say to them, "Today
this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22And all spoke well of him and
marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is
not this Joseph's son?" 23And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this
proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do
here in your hometown as well." 24And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is
acceptable in his hometown. 25But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in
Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months,
and a great famine came over all the land, 26and Elijah was sent to none of them but
only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27And there

were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." [28]When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. [29]And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. [30]But passing through their midst, he went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed **(p. 191)**

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day **658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior**

Sermon **"Gathered and Rejoicing in God's Word"** **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

Offering

Offertory **(p. 192-193)**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God of Zion, we give You thanks that You have arisen to show pity to our fallen world and set us free from sin and death. In Christ the appointed time of favor has come for all people. Cause Your name to be declared among all peoples, that Your grace may not be rejected in our time but received with delight in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, Your people in the days of Ezra the priest returned to Your Word with attentive ears. Give us eagerness to hear Your Word with understanding, that our days may be sanctified and Your commandments put into practice among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, Giver of the Holy Spirit, You bless Your servants with a variety of gifts from one and the same Spirit. Grant that each of us may use these gifts for the common good of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give wisdom and courage to all who govern our communities and country, that they may lead well, following Your will rather than man's whims. Grant us willingness to support them with our prayers and encouragement. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them, especially *Roger and Virginia Emmons.* Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious and compassionate Lord, comfort those who mourn *[especially _____].* As our Great Physician, mend the bodies and uplift the spirits of all in need *[especially _____].* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, Your Son has come with favor to deliver us, and in His blessed Sacrament He brings cleansing and strength. Give us faith that we would not despise our Savior and this Holy Communion. Do not pass through us and go away as at Nazareth, but dwell among us graciously. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194ff)

Distribution Hymns

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light
579 The Law of God is Good and Wise
580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

Post-Communion Canticle **Nunc Dimittis** **(LSB p. 199)**

Post-Communion Collect **(LSB p. 201)**

Salutation and Benedicamus **(LSB p. 201)**

Benediction **(LSB p. 202)**

Closing Hymn **582 God's Word is Our Great Heritage**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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Prince of Peace News and Notes for January 26, 2025

Please fill out a registration card today and leave it on the table in the back of the sanctuary or put it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Serving the Lord and One Another Today: *Ushers:* Willie & Leatta Danielson; *Greeters:* POP Family; *Song leader:* Brooklynn Scholze*; Money Counters*: Barb Hinds & Debbie Dunnum.

Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday: *Ushers:* Russ & Sharie Brunk; *Greeters*: POP Family; *Song leader:* Patty & Nancy Horstmann*; Money Counters*: Elaine Schmidt & Chris Leis.

Do you have an announcement that you want to share with the Congregation? Send it to office@wspop.org by the end of the day on Tuesday and it will be printed in this week's bulletin. You can also publish key information in the newsletter by submitting it the same way. Newsletter information is due by the end of the day on the Wednesday before the last Sunday.

Our Response to God's Gifts

Attendance last Sunday and Monday: 35
Weekly Budget Need: $3868.38
January 19 offering: $2461.00
Special Gifts:

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Join us Wednesday mornings at 9:30 as we study 2 Peter and Jude!

Life Thought from Lutheran for Life: The apostle Paul involved Gentile Titus in Christian ministry to embody how the Gospel doesn't discriminate. So confinement to mother's womb will not disqualify anyone from worth: Jesus is Lord there, too (Psalm 71:6). And advanced age cannot undermine it either: He employs "elder" as an expression of respect (Titus 1:5-9). We dare not close the kingdom doors Almighty God has opened!

Listen to POP Sermons Online! Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ! POP sermons are available at http://www.wspop.org/sermons.html via Spotify. You may also listen by clicking the QR Code.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Join us this morning as we follow the experience of a fictional family as they look for a church family to call their own. Insights from this study will help us understand our own church experiences. So, "Will the real church please stand up?"

Scrip Sales – Scrip gift cards are available for purchase after our worship service in the fellowship hall.

Altar Flowers – There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bring flowers for the altar.

We have two priority projects this year: 1) Replace the most problematic furnace. Timing: August or September. Cost: about $4250 with fundraising starting immediately 2) Repaint the storage shed. Requires stripping old paint, prime coat and finish coat. We need volunteers, ladders and equipment. We plan to start as weather permits.

Stewardship Thoughts: 1 Corinthians 12:16 – "And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body." The Lord has called each of us individually and given each of us unique gifts. He has made our whole lives holy in our Baptism and has called us to a life together in the church, His body. You are a part of that body, and that body needs you and the gifts the Lord has given you. This is your holy calling from the Lord.

First Friday – Join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on Friday, February 7 at 5 p.m. with fellowship and other activities!