PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23, 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

God, in His infinite wisdom and knowledge, uses events and people to accomplish His will. In His grace and love, He can use even what may appear to be bad circumstances to save His people. As death came through man, so also through one man, Christ Jesus, comes life. As we live our lives in response to the Gospel, Jesus exhorts us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate, to pray for those who abuse, not to judge, and to turn the other cheek.

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

Opening Hymn **844 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**

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

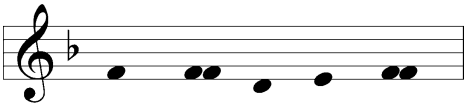
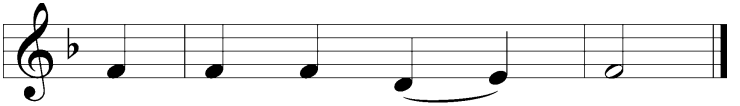
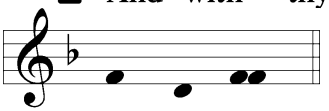
Service of the Word **(LSB p.186-193)**

Introit *Psalm 37:1–5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b*

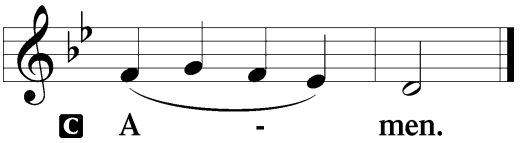
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.
Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
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.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

Kyrie **(LSB p.186)**

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 45:3–15

Genesis 45:3–15

3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers
could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.
4So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near.
And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5And now do not
be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me
before you to preserve life. 6For the famine has been in the land these two years, and
there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7And God
sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you
many survivors. 8So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a
father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9Hurry
and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me
lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. 10You shall dwell in the land of
Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children,
and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11There I will provide for you, for
there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all
that you have, do not come to poverty.’ 12And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my
brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. 13You must tell my
father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my

father down here." [14]Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. [15]And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

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 15:21–26, 30–42 *1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42*

[21]For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22]For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23]But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24]Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25]For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26]The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

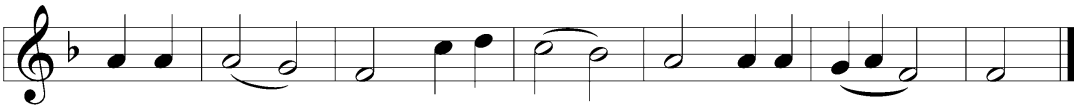
[30]Why am I in danger every hour? [31]I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! [32]What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." [33]Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." [34]Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

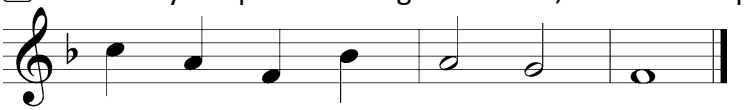
[35]But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" [36]You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. [37]And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. [38]But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. [39]For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. [40]There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. [41]There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

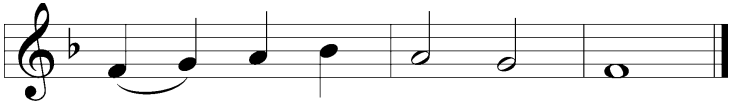
Stand

Alleluia

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27–38 *Luke 6:27–38*

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

27[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who
hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29To one who
strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your
cloak do not withhold your tunic either. 30Give to everyone who begs from you, and
from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. 31And as you wish
that others would do to you, do so to them.

32"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love
those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit
is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34And if you lend to those from whom
you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get
back the same amount. 35But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting
nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most
High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36Be merciful, even as your Father is
merciful.

37"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be
condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38give, and it will be given to you. Good
measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For
with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Apostles' Creed **(p. 192)**

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day **544 O Love, How Deep**

Sermon **"Are We Not to Judge?" Luke 6:27-38**

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.
O Lord, Your servant Joseph endured hardship and struggle, yet he believed it would come to good. Give us such tested faith, and bring all things to completion according to Your purposes in Christ, the new Adam, who has brought hope to the world. 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 Eric and Cassie, Sophia, Luke and Claudia Grube. 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 Preserve and unite Your Church, O Lord. Bring an end to her earthly divisions, which grieve You. Give her the true unity of doctrine and faith in Your Word. Bless and sustain our leaders in our Synod, district, circuit and this congregation. Lord, in Your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, Your Son, our Lord, commanded us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who persecute us. We implore You, by Your gracious visitation, lead our enemies to true repentance and to have the same love, be of one accord, and share one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Church. Lord, in Your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, give us guidance amid the changes and chances of this mortal life. Deliver us from the pangs of doubt and the paralysis of fear. Let us know our Lord, Jesus Christ,

and the power of His resurrection with joy, that we may not surrender to anxiety or despair. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Righteous Lord, uphold civil authority and those responsible for the welfare of our nation, state and community. Help them steadfastly to pursue the cause of justice and protect life from beginning to natural end. Guard all first responders, and protect those who defend us here or abroad. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm *[especially _____]*. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P We give thanks for the gift of this blessed Sacrament, O Lord. Give us a right heart as we prepare to eat and drink Christ's true body and blood, that by it we would be equipped to love You above all and our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess that we are poor, miserable sinners with no good in us. Our hearts and our flesh and blood are so corrupted by sin that we are never without sinful desires in this life. Therefore, we implore You, forgive us our sins. Let Your Holy Spirit so cleanse our hearts that we would love Your Word, abide by it and, by Your grace, be saved forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194ff)

Distribution Hymns

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker
766 Our Father, Who from Heav'n Above

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 **790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**