PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Third Sunday in Lent
March 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

Throughout the Holy Scriptures, the Lord inspires several refrains that shape the confession of the church—repent and live, abhor evil, flee destruction, and love righteousness! The justice of Christ's righteousness abolishes the merit of good works; He redeems those who genuinely repent of their iniquity. These are the ones upon whom He bestows eternal life. By human standards, this is questionable justice. By divine standards, it is total grace! God is faithful. He will do it!

Order of Service: **Divine Service 1, p. 151 ff.**

Opening Hymn **608 Lord, to You I Make Confession**

Confession and Absolution **(LSB p. 151)**

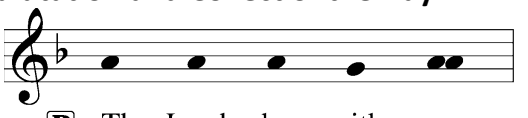
Service of the Word **(LSB p.152-160)**

Introit *Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6*

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.
For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.
The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.
You destroy those who speak lies;
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.
I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.
Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.
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.
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Kyrie **(LSB p. 152)**

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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: Ezekiel 33:7–20

Ezekiel 33:7–20

7 "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever
you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the
wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked
to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will
require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does
not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered
your soul.

10 "And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our
transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then
can we live?' 11 Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the
death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn
back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

12 "And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall
not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he
shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be
able to live by his righteousness when he sins. 13 Though I say to the righteous that he
shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his
righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall
die. 14 Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his
sin and does what is just and right, 15 if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what
he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall
surely live; he shall not die. 16 None of the sins that he has committed shall be
remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

17"Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just,' when it is their own way
that is not just. 18When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice,
he shall die for it. 19And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is
just and right, he shall live by them. 20Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O
house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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: 1 Corinthians 10:1–13

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

1I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all
passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they
drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.
5Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in
the wilderness.

6Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as
they did. 7Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat
down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality
as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put
Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10nor
grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11Now these
things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our
instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12Therefore let anyone who
thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13No temptation has overtaken you that is
not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your
ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may
be able to endure it.

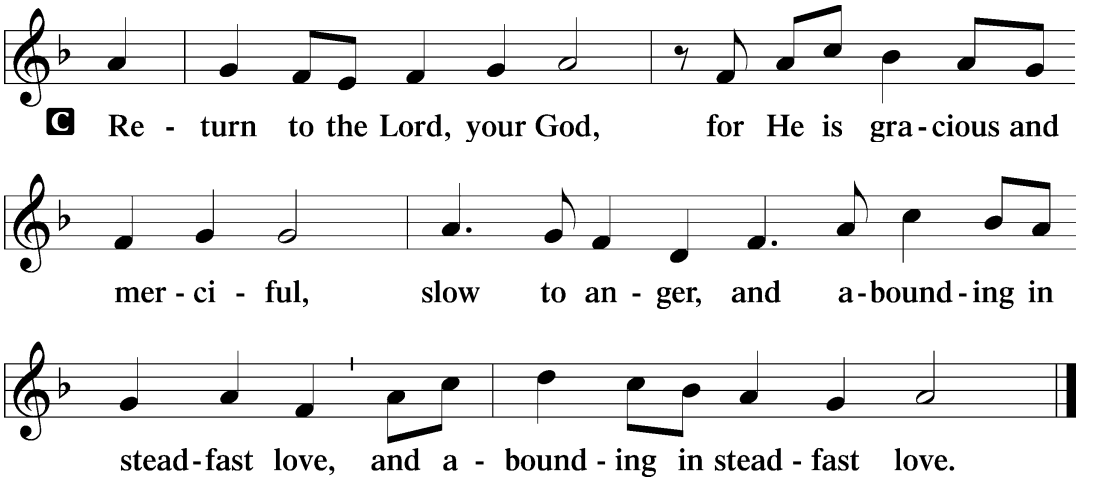
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Lenten Verse

Joel 2:13



Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1–9

Luke 13:1–9

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

[1]There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [2]And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? [3]No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. [4]Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? [5]No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

[6]And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. [7]And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for

three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' [8]And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. [9]Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sit

Nicene Creed **(p. 158)**

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day **765 God Moves in a Mysterious Way**

Sermon **"Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?" Luke 13:1-9**

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For repentance and faith in Christ, that God would guard us from doubt and deliver us to life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For a faithful proclamation of truth, that God would embolden pastors to warn of sin and death and give all Christians strength to defend that message; and that sinners would be turned to life through the proclamation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For protection against sexual immorality, that God would make our homes havens of chastity and godly instruction, filling marriages with fidelity and love, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the homes in which Your people dwell, that God would keep all harm and danger far from them, especially Desha and Tyler and Carter Hodgkins. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings, let us pray to the Lord, **C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in authority, that God who establishes justice by His Law, which is for all, would enlighten them to rule justly for true good, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For protection when we are tempted, that God in His faithfulness would guard us from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that He will provide the way of escape; and that He would strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until He delivers, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who cry to the Lord for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil, *[especially _____,]* that the Lord would deliver and heal them, strengthening their faith to look to Him for help, 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 in the body and blood of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

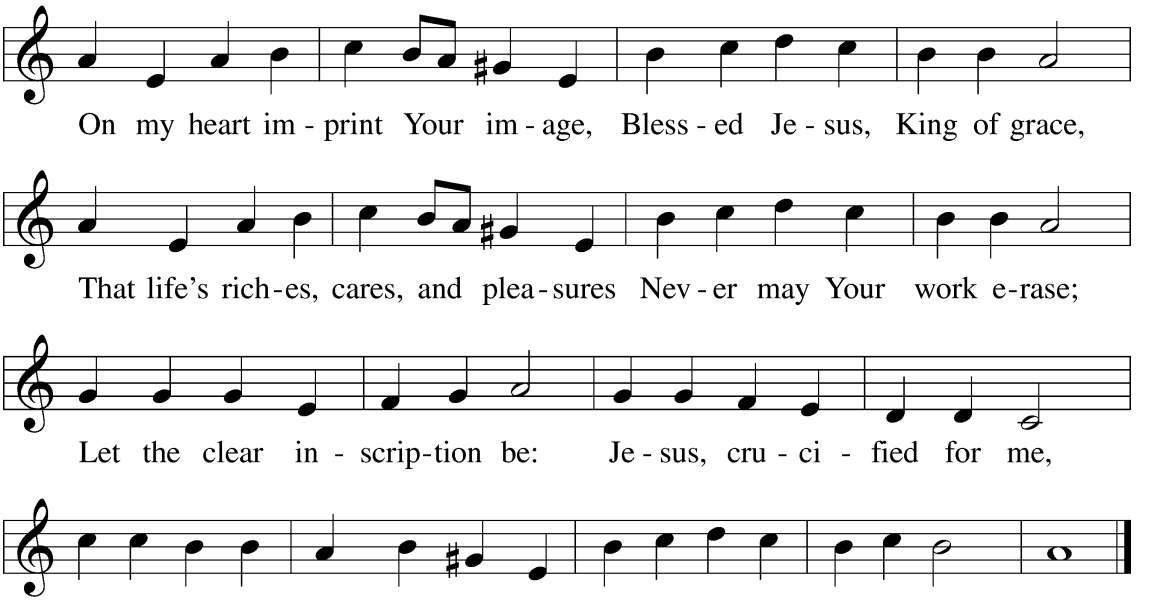
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience, and grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do; 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 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194ff)

Distribution Hymns

623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray
704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light
760 What God Ordains Is Always Good

Post-Communion Canticle **Nunc Dimittis** **(LSB p. 165)**

Post-Communion Collect **(LSB p. 166)**

Benediction **(LSB p. 166)**

Closing Hymn **824 May God Bestow On Us His Grace**

Prince of Peace News and Notes for March 23, 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*: Elaine Schmidt & Barb Alsobrooks.

Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday: *Ushers:* Barb Hinds & Chris Leis; *Greeters*: POP Family; *Song leader:* Sarah Kolander*; Money Counters*: Barb Hinds & Ona Childs.

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: 53
Weekly Budget Need: $3868.38
March 16 offering: $3449.00
Special Gifts:

Lenten Midweek: Each Wednesday, join your brothers and sisters in Christ for Evening Prayer vespers at 7 p.m. Each week, we will look at how adiaphora (things indifferent) in the sanctuary still proclaim the crucified and risen Christ. Lenten meals begin at 6 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Join us this Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. as we continue our study on Jude!

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.

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, which is posted on the kiosk in the narthex.

Birthright Fundraiser: We're doing a 'baby bottle' challenge for Birthright again this year. Birthright is a volunteer organization, available to those who are pregnant to provide information, a listening space, and love, along with referrals and emotional and spiritual support. Please take a bottle home and collect your change for the next month.

Stewardship Thoughts: Luke 13:3 – "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." The season of Lent is all about repentance: turning back to the Lord, away from our sins, in faith. We know that it is only in the Lord that we can find salvation. So, we do well in this season of repentance to examine ourselves, asking questions like, "What is trying to keep me away from Jesus?" "What is a temptation I face?" "What is a sin I need to repent of and leave behind?" Then we turn to the Lord for the strength to leave these sins behind, and for the courage to follow Him in faith and faithful living.

Men's Bible Study: Men, join your brothers in Christ on Tuesday, March 25 at 5 p.m. at Features in West Salem as we study the book "Man Up!"

We're collecting low-carb freezer meals for the Adelsen's. Melissa had surgery on February 21st. Please bring your gift of food to the church.

5th Sunday Potluck and Trivia – Following the Sunday, March 30th Divine Service, we will be having a potluck with trivia. Come and share in fun and fellowship!

Life Thought from Lutherans for Life: If almighty God has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked" (Ezekiel 33:11), how much more does death of innocents grieve Him? Why then should the people of God ever tolerate the killing of unborn sisters and brothers? And if the Lord of all only deals in death when human iniquity does not allow Him to avoid it, will not the same love move us to warn others against dealing in death?

Check out the quilts and crafts in the fellowship hall! All the items are for sale, and the proceeds will go to support our LWML. Quilts are being sold for $25 minimum, and for the other crafts, buyers can determine the price.