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 30, 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

Divine forgiveness is incomparable. God's justifiable anger for sinful rebellion is assuaged. Prodigal sons are forgiven, embraced, and fed. The church continually recalls this same liturgical sequence—Confession, Absolution, and Eucharist feast. Our restoration as God's people is complete by God's decree and action. The old has passed away and the new has come. As a forgiven people, we resound in shouts and songs of unsurpassed joy! Thank the Lord and sing His praise!

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

Opening Hymn **915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us**

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

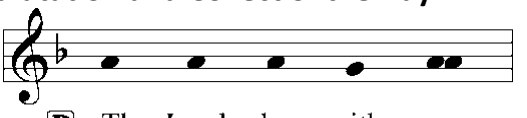
Service of the Word **(LSB p.152-160)**

Introit *Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
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.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Kyrie **(LSB p. 152)**

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12:1–6

Isaiah 12:1–6

1 You will say in that day:
"I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.
2 "Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation."

3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
5 "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
6 Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

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: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

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. 18All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to
himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was
reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and
entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for
Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be
reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in
him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

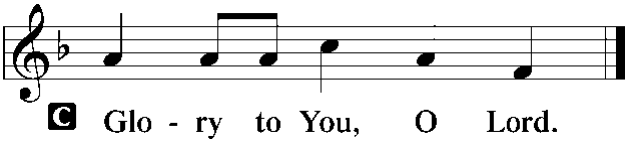
Stand

Lenten Verse

Joel 2:13

Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32 *Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32*

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



[1]Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. [2]And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

[3]So he told them this parable: . . .

"There was a man who had two sons. [12]And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. [13]Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. [14]And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. [15]So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. [16]And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

[17]"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! [18]I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. [19]I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' [20]And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. [21]And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' [22]But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. [23]And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. [24]For this my

son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

25"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' 31And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Nicene Creed **(p. 158)**

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day **571 God Loved the World So That He Gave**

Sermon **"The Parable of the Compassionate Father"** **Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

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.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done in Your sight. Move us to confess our offenses against You, and justify us with Your holy absolution. Lord, in Your mercy, C**hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, You delight in truth in the inward being and teach us wisdom in the secret heart. Give to our pastors every good gift as Your ambassadors, that we may grow in faith and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the homes in which Your people dwell, that God would keep all harm and danger far from them, especially Karl and Carrie, Katherine and Lucas Horstman. 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 Father of mercy, remember Your baptized children who have left Your household and departed from the faith. Call them to repentance according to Your gracious will. Remember parents, grandparents and all who mourn their departure. Sustain them in faithful patience to wait and pray. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, in Christ You reconciled the world to Yourself. Watch over our nation and all whom You have placed in authority. Give them wisdom and prudence, that Your people might live in peace and freely make known the message of reconciliation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Everlasting Father, although this world is passing away due to sin, we pray that You would preserve Your creation for our provision until You usher in Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who cry out to You for mercy, healing and help *[<u>including</u> _____]*. Deliver them according to Your will and, as You have made them a new creation in Christ, keep them mindful of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, who visits us this day with His body and blood! Give to all who partake of this Holy Communion penitent hearts to receive Christ Jesus as our strength and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

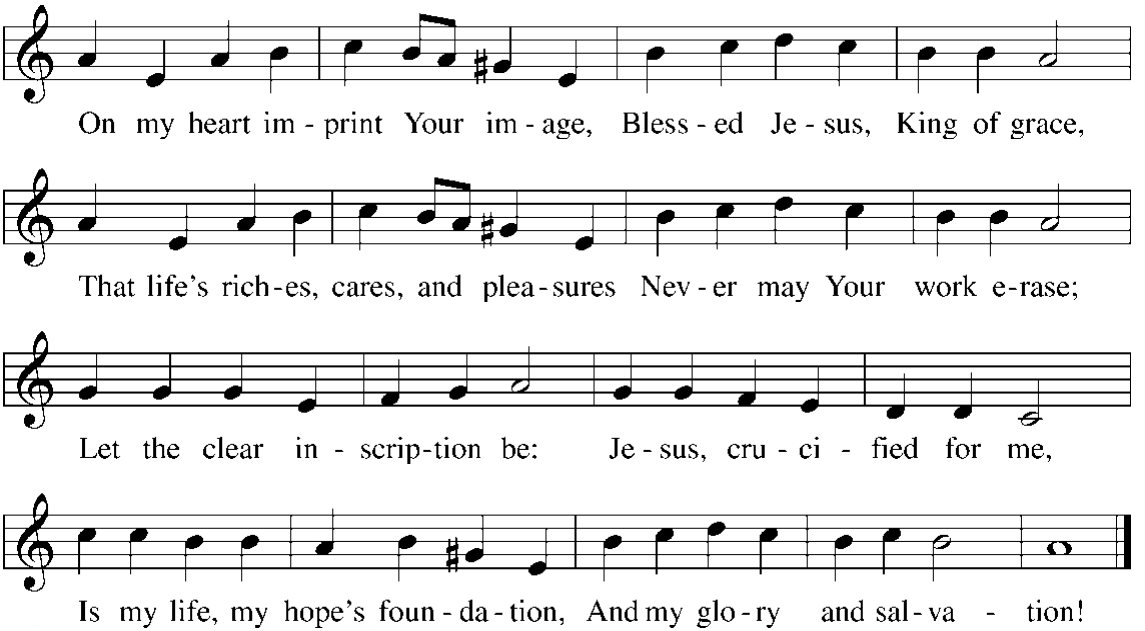
C **hear our prayer.**

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.**

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

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

Post-Communion Canticle	**Nunc Dimittis**	**(LSB p. 165)**
Post-Communion Collect		**(LSB p. 166)**
Benediction		**(LSB p. 166)**
Closing Hymn	**543 What Wondrous Love Is This**	

Prince of Peace News and Notes for March 30, 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:* Barb Hinds & Chris Leis; *Greeters:* POP Family; *Song leader:* Sarah Kolander*; Money Counters*: Barb Hinds & Ona Childs.

Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday: *Ushers:* Mike & Carolyn Dosland; *Greeters*: POP Family; *Song leader:* POP Choir*; Money Counters*: Elaine Schmidt & Debbie Dunnum.

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: 45
Weekly Budget Need: $3868.38
March 23 offering: $2485.75
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. It's not too late to take a bottle home and collect your change. The bottles will be picked up with the money on April 14.

Stewardship Thoughts: "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them." This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. "Give me my inheritance now!" he says, which is really to say, "You are better off dead in my eyes." This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

Men's Bible Study: Men, join your brothers in Christ on Tuesday, April 8 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.

Pro-Life Event – Join thousands of pro-lifers across the country, gathering peacefully outside Planned Parenthood facilities on Wednesday, April 2 at 4 p.m. outside the La Crosse Planned Parenthood, 1201 Caledonia Street.