PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Easter Sunday
April 20, 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

Putrid death mutes joy and gladness. And yet the sound of weeping and the cry of distress will be no more in the wake of resurrection. Christ is alive. Death is destroyed. There is no stench of death at the morning tomb, no need for embalming spices, but only bold confession. "He is not here, but has risen." Stymied and uncertain, Peter inspects an empty tomb. Where death no longer reigns, exceeding marvel, comfort, and joy flourish.

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

Opening Hymn **457 Jesus Christ is Risen Today**

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

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

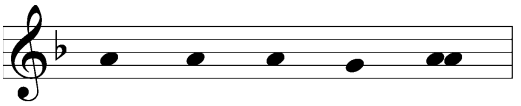
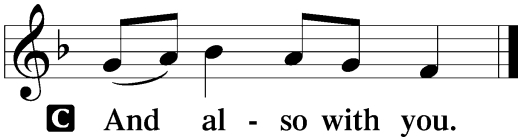
Introit *Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: v. 1b*

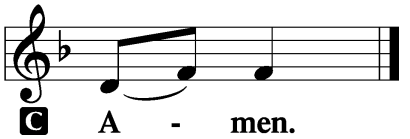
I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.
You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.
You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,
the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.
The LORD will reign forever and ever.
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.
I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

Kyrie **(LSB p. 152)**

Hymn of Praise **465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.
Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 65:17–25 *Isaiah 65:17–25*

17 "Behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.
20 No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

[21]They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
[22]They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
[23]They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
and their descendants with them.
[24]Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
[25]The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.

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

Hymn **474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:19–26 *1 Corinthians 15:19–26*

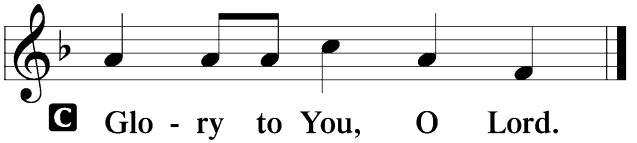
[19]If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
[20]But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21]For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22]For as in Adam all 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.

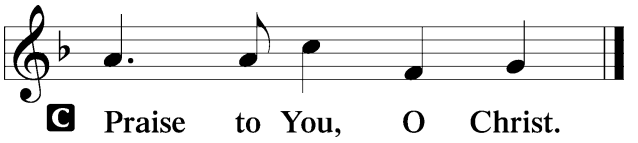
A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia Verse **(p. 157)**

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:1–12 *Luke 24:1–12*

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

[1]On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. [2]And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, [3]but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. [4]While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. [5]And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? [6]He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, [7]that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." [8]And they remembered his words, [9]and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. [10]Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, [11]but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. [12]But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Nicene Creed **(p. 158)**

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day **482 This Joyful Eastertide**

Sermon **"What If?"** **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

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.

Holy Lord, mighty God, You have borne the sin of the world and given to us the promise of new and everlasting life. Receive our thanks for the glorious resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. Bring us with Him to our own joyful resurrection and the reunion of all Your saints. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You have established the Church as the instrument of Your saving purpose and endowed us with the gift of Your Word and Sacrament. Embolden us with the Holy Spirit, that we may be renewed in witness, sustained in trial and refreshed through the Means of Grace. Bless those who bring Your gifts and preach Your Word. Give us willing ears to hear and willing hearts to keep this Easter faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ's resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husbands and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand. 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 Chuck and Laura, Lily, Charlie and Reggie Kasinger. 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 Bless Donald, our president, and all who make and administer our laws. Frustrate the forces of evil, and do not let our leaders cooperate with them or further their goals. Guard our armed forces as they stand watch for us at home and abroad. Let them serve with honor and integrity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Lord, Your healing and strength are the hope of all the weary and afflicted. According to Your gracious will, give to all the sick and those who suffer healing and relief *[especially _____]*. Grant them patience and hope until that day when they put on new and glorious bodies raised by Christ and receive the end of all afflictions. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Most Holy Father, this is the feast of victory, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. By Your Spirit, prepare us to receive His body and blood for the strengthening of our faith in this mortal life. Build in us anticipation for the marriage supper of the Lamb, which we and all the people of God shall feast upon in His kingdom without end. Lord, in Your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, You have not let Your Holy One see corruption, but have raised Him in triumph from the dead, never to die again. Therefore, our hearts are glad and we rejoice, for our flesh also dwells secure. Since You have set Him at Your right hand, lead us to set His resurrection before us at all times, that His path of life and the fullness of joy in His presence may be known to us, until we come also to the eternal pleasures at His right hand, forevermore; for You, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Offering **"Christ Arose"** **POP Choir**

Offertory **(p. 159)**

Service of the Sacrament **(p. 160-166)**

Distribution Hymns

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
478 The Day of Resurrection
463 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

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

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

Benediction **(LSB p. 166)**

Closing Hymn **466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!**