

Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Rethinking Devotion & Commitment

5th Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024



“Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace.”

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Martinez, GA 30907

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WELCOME!

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We pray that the time spent here in God's house helps you to appreciate how dearly God loves you! May God bless our worship today! If you are visiting with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out one of the information cards found in the pews next to the hymnals. You can either place the completed card in the offering plate or give it to the usher when being ushered out at the end of the service. We look forward to getting to know you better in order to serve you fully with God's word!

THEME FOR TODAY

Some may describe Christians as either committed Christians or cultural Christians. Committed Christians are usually defined as those who are active in a congregation, who pray regularly, who read Scripture, etc. The latter are those individuals who call themselves Christian and perhaps have some Christian beliefs, living in a society that generically holds to Christian values, but are not interested in church involvement. Such definitions are interesting when trying to understand shifts in the culture of American Christianity. However, neither description really expresses what the Bible teaches about being a committed believer. There is indeed a devoted commitment at the center of Christianity, but it is not man's commitment to God, instead, at the heart of Christianity we find God's devotion and commitment to us. It is a devoted commitment so strong that it put God on the cross.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Scripture teaches us that in the Lord's Supper:

- The body and blood of Christ are really present with the bread and the wine. (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:27)
- Jesus gives true forgiveness, not just a symbol, to each recipient. (Matthew 26:28)
- We are united as one body of believers because we all partake the one body and blood of Christ. "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

For these reasons we ask that, if you are not a part of a WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) or ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) church that publicly confesses to believe these same scriptural truths, you speak with our pastor before you take the Sacrament. We do not wish to judge your faith, but want to make sure that we are in agreement before publicly declaring that we share a common faith.

We are careful about the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper because we want to humbly accept this gift the way God intended.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

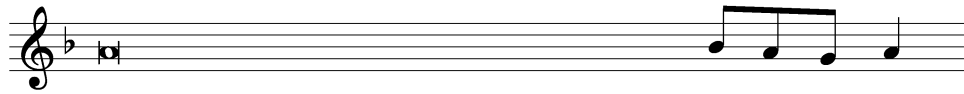
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



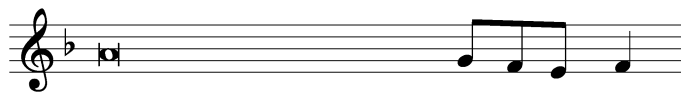
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: Kevin Becker
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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1–7

In devoted commitment, the LORD promises his people that even if they need to pass through raging waters or walk through a wall of fire, he will be right there with them.

¹But now, this is what the LORD says—
 he who created you, Jacob,
 he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
²When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
 you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.
³For I am the LORD your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
 Cush and Seba in your stead.
⁴Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
 and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,

nations in exchange for your life.
5Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
6I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
7everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

121A I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains

Psalm 121A

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

Because he was truly human Jesus did not relish having to suffer for our salvation. Yet he submitted to the cross out of his devoted commitment to us.

7During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 10:45



Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Refrain

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Gospel

John 12:20–33

Though the thought of the cross troubled his soul, Jesus was committed to glorifying his Father's name by winning eternal life for us.

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Sermon

Father, Glorify Your Name!

John 12:20–33

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

Our offerings are freely given as a response to God's gracious outpouring of love upon us.

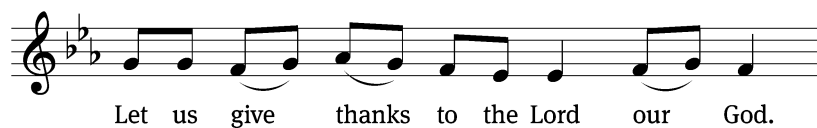
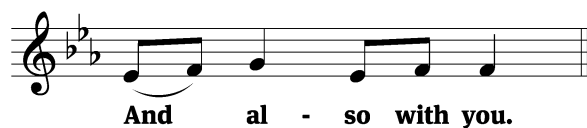
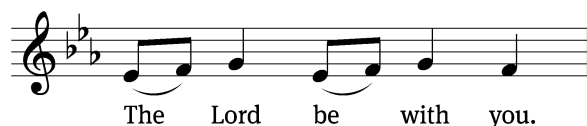
The Sacrament

Please be sure to see the note on page 2 of this bulletin regarding our communion practice according to God's Word.

Stand

Preface

CW 165



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

661 Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord

CW 661

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

927 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

CW 927

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY	6:30 pm Catechism
WEDNESDAY	10:15 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:00 pm Bible Class
THURSDAY	5:00 pm Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting
SUNDAY	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (Palm Sunday)

HOLY WEEK

3/24 Palm Sunday 10:30 am
3/28 Holy Thursday 6:30 pm (Lord's Supper)
3/29 Good Friday 6:30 pm
3/31 Easter 10:30 am

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped to plan and make the preschool fund raiser and the Spring carnival a success! Many desserts were made for the silent auction which raised over \$775.00. The live auction raised over \$3,000.00 which would not have been possible without all of the items that were collected as donations from businesses and items that were donated by members of our congregation. There were approximately 200 lunches sold which took a lot of effort to cook and put together. The congregation did well selling tickets for the lunches. The lunch and the auctions as well as the carnival were also advertised on social media. The congregation really came together to support this effort and it is appreciated. We actually raised \$5,132.50!

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Karen Thomasson purchased the flowers for the chancel area today to celebrate her grandson, Weston's birthday. We are reminded that life is a precious gift from God to be used to the praise and glory of God. May this child grow to know his Savior better day by day and confess the faith clearly throughout his life! Happy Birthday, Weston!



LILIES!



You may sign up for your own Easter Lily plant on the bulletin board. The cost for the Lilies this year will be approximately \$10 each. Those who sign up and purchase the plants may take them home following the Easter Sunday worship service.

EASTER BREAKFAST

There is a sign-up sheet regarding Easter Sunday Breakfast on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office.



Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
3/6 & 3/10/24	\$ 3,566.00	3/6/24	20	3/6 & 3/10/24	\$ 2,515.00
Month to Date	\$ 7,204.00	3/10/24	45	Month to Date	\$ 2,730.00
YTD	\$ 50,442.00			YTD	\$ 6,650.00
Budget YTD	\$ 40,556.00			Budget YTD	\$ 7,168.00
2023 YTD	\$ 44,897.00			2023 YTD	\$ 8,068.00

Weekly needs February Operating Offering

\$ 3,863.00

Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 2,867.00