Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace

4th Sunday after Pentecost June 20, 2021

"Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace."

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
3703 River Watch Pkwy,
Martinez, GA 30907

www.princeofpeacemartinez.com
www.facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez
www.instagram.com/princeofpeace_martinez

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706-860-1655 (Preschool)
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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! He invested the life blood of his one and only Son into your salvation and offers the blessings of that sacrifice to us through Word and Sacrament! May God bless our worship today!

THEME FOR TODAY

Understanding our Christian identity means understanding that we are constantly growing, just like a plant rooted in the ground. Our growth as Christians doesn't simply stop after we learn "Jesus Loves Me." It doesn't stop after confirmation or when we reach adulthood or after spending 10 years in the church. Growing in grace is a life-long and life-encapsulating process. What is it that makes us grow? It is the Word of God!

INFORMATION

- Our nursery area is located near the entrance area of the church. It is equipped with a television monitor so that you can view and follow the service if you desire to stay with your child in the nursery.
- Restrooms are located through the double doors down the hallway on the right. A changing table for infants and toddlers is located in both restrooms. Additional restrooms are available in the education wing.
- The service is recorded and may be found on our YouTube channel or website.

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.

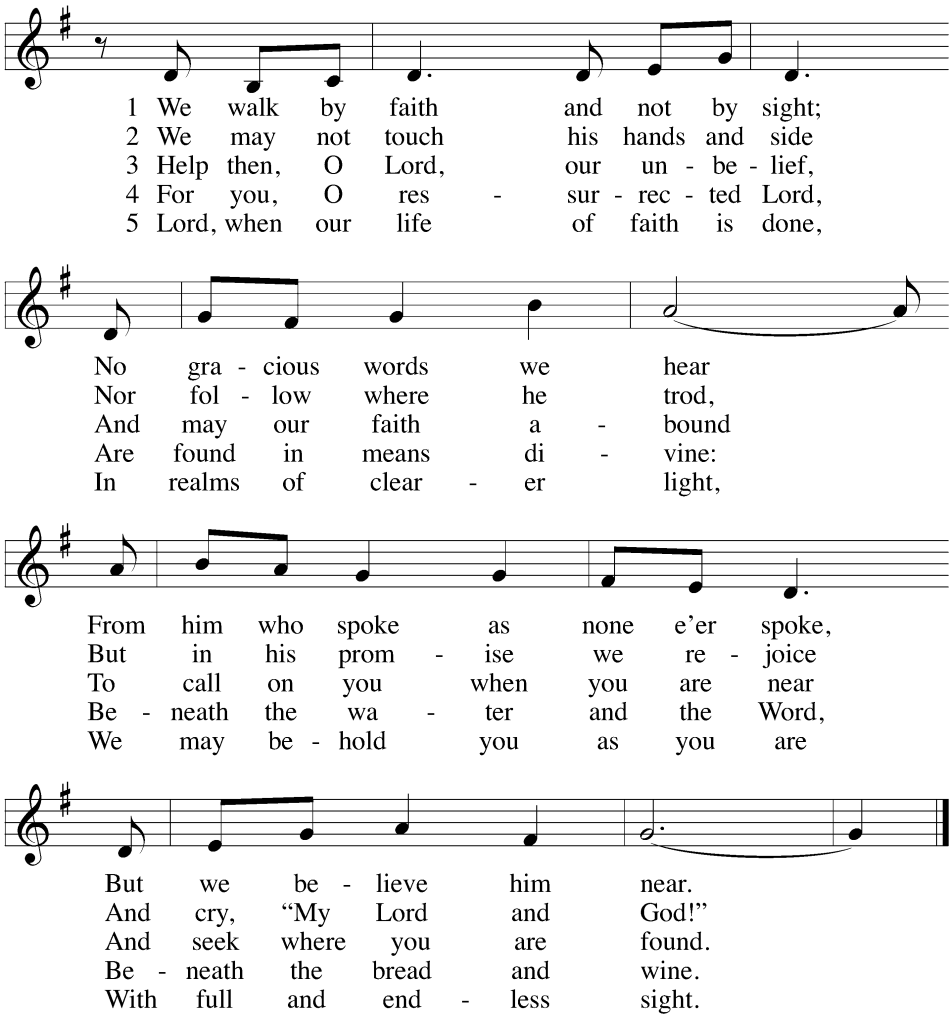
We are careful about the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper because we want to humbly accept this gift the way God intended.

Christian Identity: Who are we?

Sunday, May 30th	—	Children of God
Sunday, June 6th	—	Weak On Our Own
Sunday, June 13th	—	Engaged In Battle
Sunday, June 20th	**—**	**Growing In Grace**
Sunday, June 27th	—	Secure In Our Identity

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN 756 **We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**



Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Tune: SHANTI (86 86) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

STAND

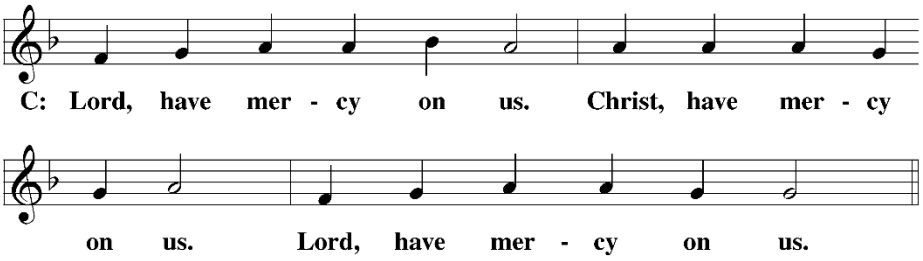
[M]: In the name of the Father and of the Son (✞) and of the Holy Spirit.

[C]: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

[M]: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[C]: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

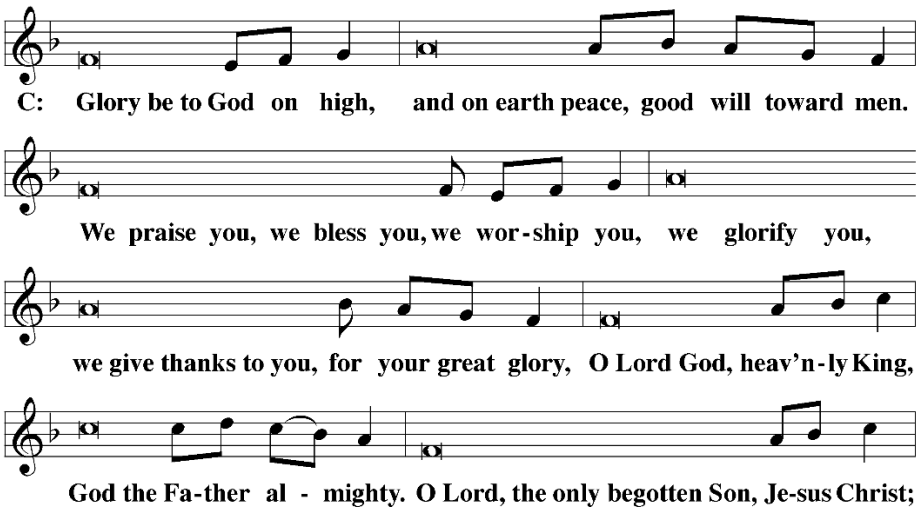


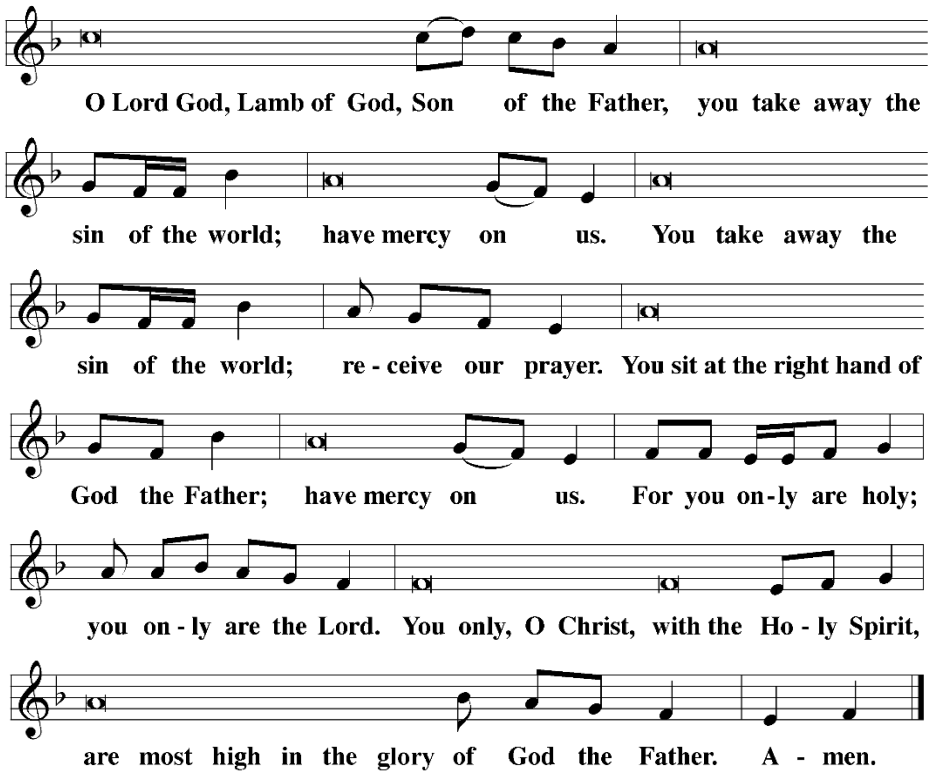
[M]: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (✞) and of the Holy Spirit.

[C]: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

[M]: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: The Lord be with you.

[C]: And also with you.

[M]: Let us pray.

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: Amen.

BE SEATED

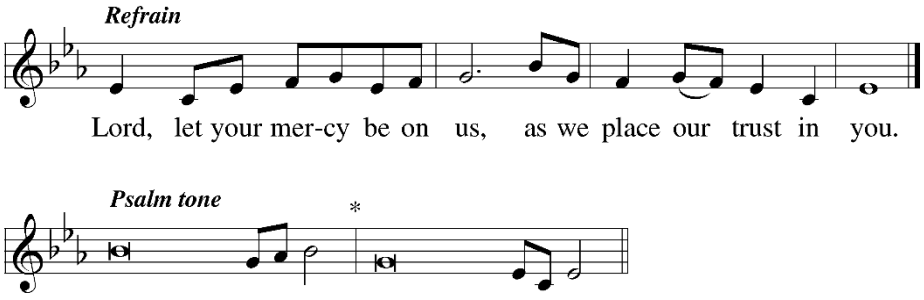
THE WORD

FIRST READING — Ezekiel 17:22-24

It is an amazing thing that God can make so much of what appears to be nothing. He set the paradigm in his own Son. There is that baby in Bethlehem. There is that dying criminal on the cross. Nothing in the eyes of the world and less than nothing, he reigns from the tree. Yet all who have real life and life eternal find their refuge, their nourishment, their beauty, their life, their all, in none other.

22 " 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very
top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and
plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23 On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it
will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind
will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. 24 All the trees of the
forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall.
I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.
" 'I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.' "

PSALM OF THE DAY — Psalm 92



How great are your works, O LORD,*
how profound your thoughts!

The senseless man does not know,*
fools do not understand,

that though the wicked spring up like grass*
and all evildoers flourish,

they will be forever destroyed.*
But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.

Refrain

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,*
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

They will still bear fruit in old age,*
they will stay fresh and green,

proclaiming, “The LORD is upright;*
he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

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.

Refrain

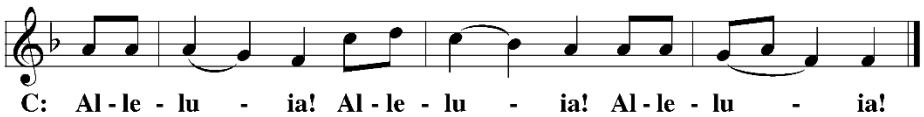
SECOND READING — 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

How splendid, how beautiful the outward and the visible dwelling place that God has given us for a moment, before it decays and crumbles into dust. If the visible seems to us so precious, how precious must be that which for the present is still invisible to which we are heirs. If then we exert ourselves so to preserve and care for the tent, how much more concerned ought we to be that we reach the blessed permanent abode towards which we journey, a home already built and preserved for us by Christ and assured to us by his Spirit in the means of grace. Nothing of the visible tent is sure or durable; only the invisible abides forever.

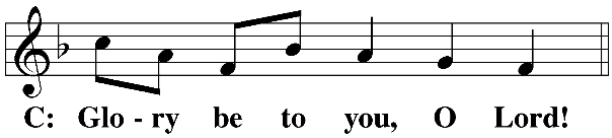
For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God,
an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. [2] Meanwhile we groan, longing
to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, [3] because when we are clothed, we
will not be found naked. [4] For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened,
because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly
dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. [5] Now the one who has
fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit,
guaranteeing what is to come.
[6] Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the
body we are away from the Lord. [7] For we live by faith, not by sight. [8] We are confident,
I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. [9] So we
make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.
[10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may
receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia. (Psalm 132:9)



STAND



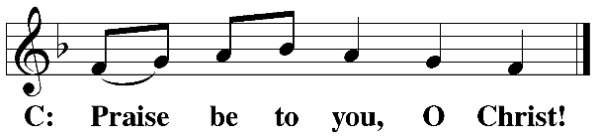
GOSPEL **Mark 4:26-34**

Jesus pictures the New Testament Church with the parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed. Without the least effort on our part, the Word sprouts in the heart of the hearer to add him to the Lord's kingdom. So, from small beginnings the Church grows into a tree large enough for people from all over the world to enjoy its saving protection.

26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the
ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows,
though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then
the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the
sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall
we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on
earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with
such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could
understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he
was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.



NICENE CREED

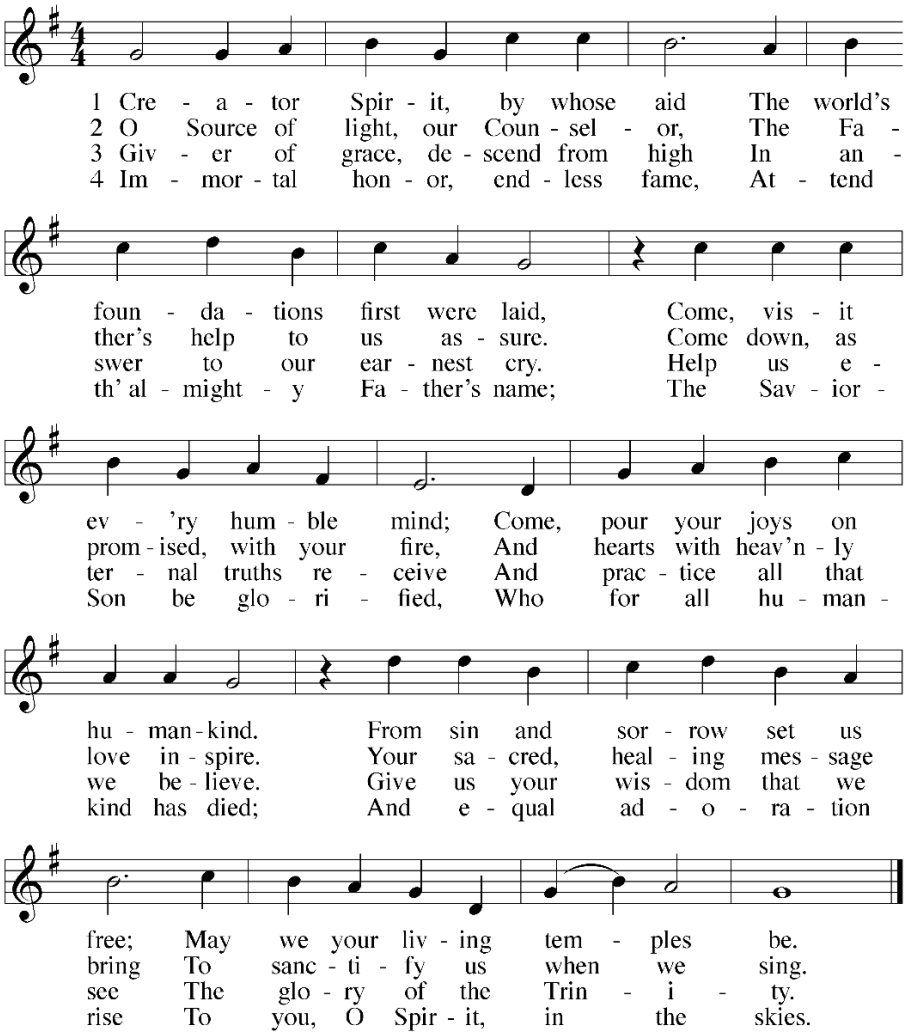
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

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 fully 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

HYMN OF THE DAY 188 **Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid**



Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856, abr.; tr. John Dryden, 1631–1700, alt.
Tune: ALL EHR UND LOB (88 88 88) *Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen, Geistliche Lieder*, Strassburg, 1541, alt.

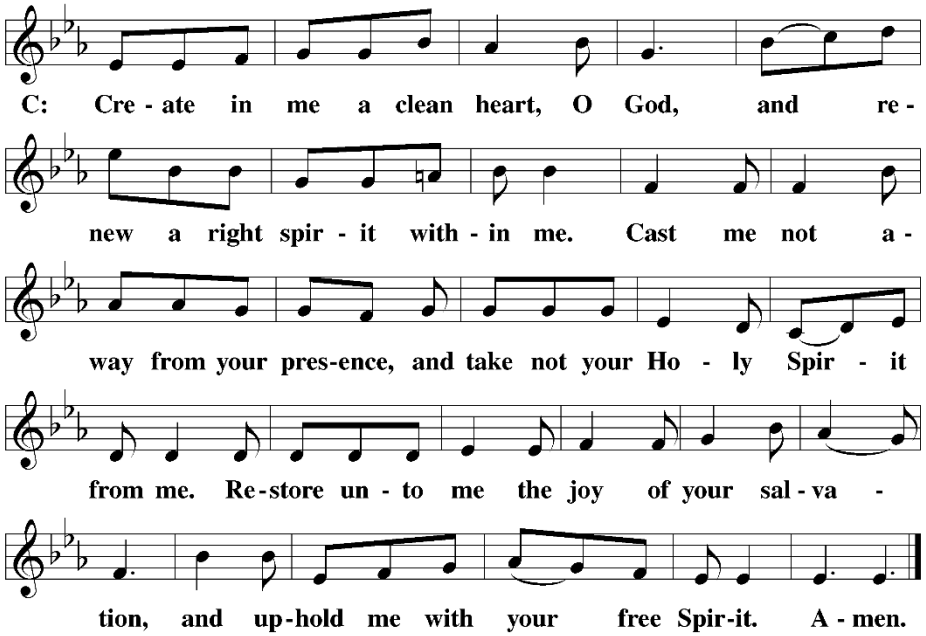
SERMON **Mark 4:26-34**

God's Word Is Powerful

I. To grow faith in the human heart
II. To grow a great kingdom

STAND

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



OFFERING

During this on-going pandemic we have refrained from passing the offering plate. You may place your offering into the plate on the table before or after the service. Online giving is also available on our website, www.princeofpeacemartinez.com .

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

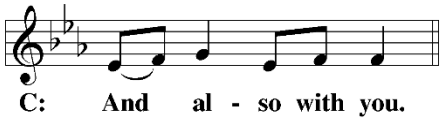
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

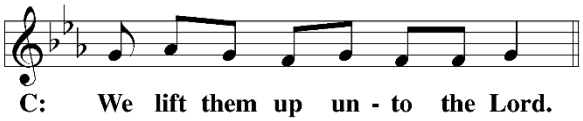
THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

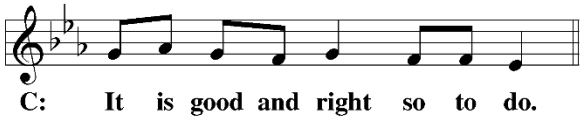
[M]: The Lord be with you.



[M]: Lift up your hearts.



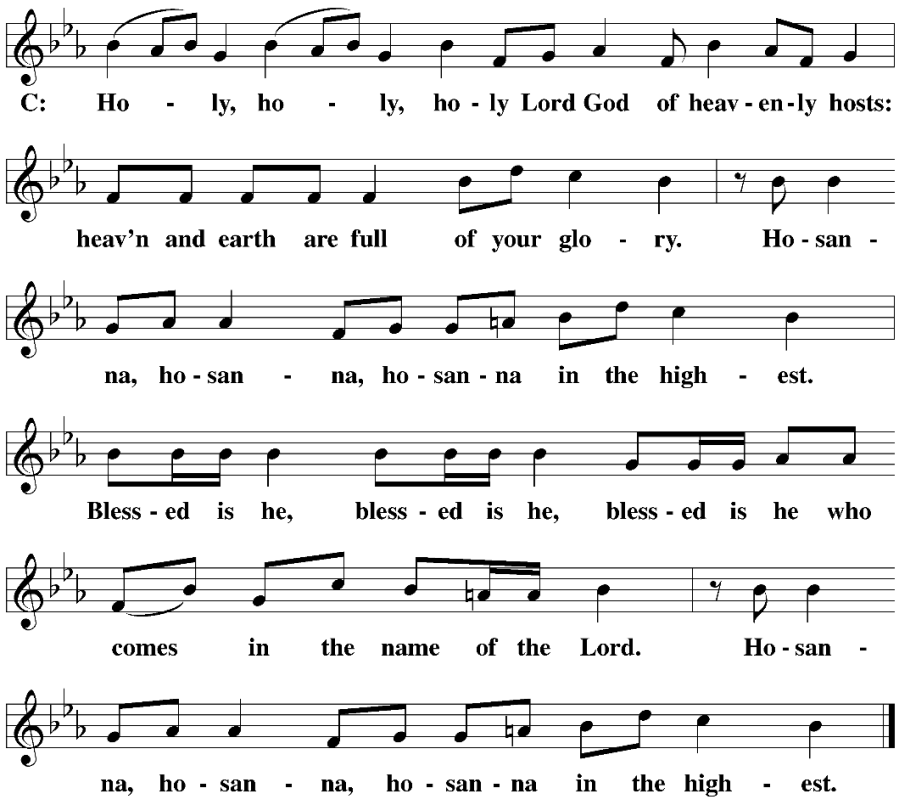
[M]: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



[M]: 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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[M]: 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."

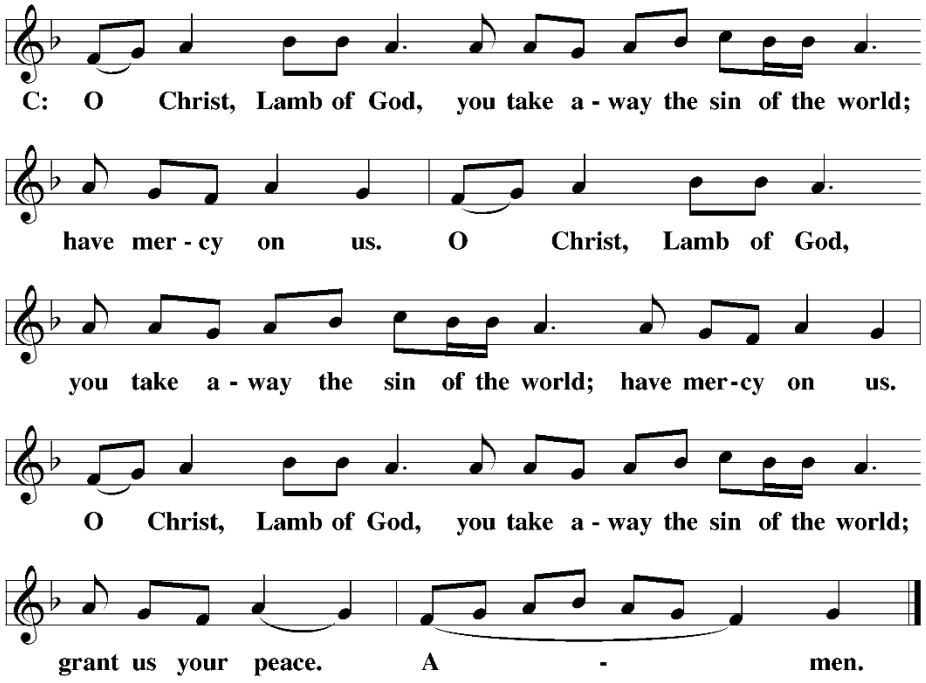
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (✞) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[M]: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C]: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



BE SEATED

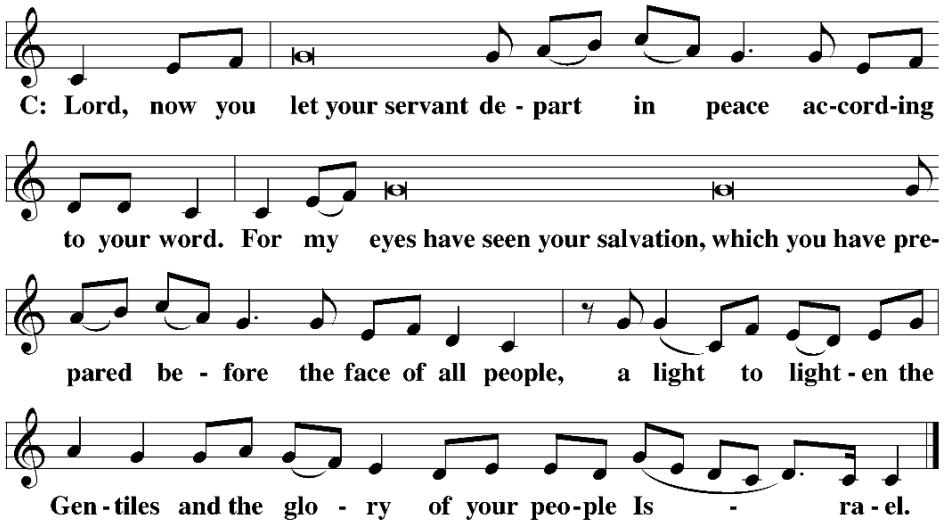
DISTRIBUTION

THANKSGIVING

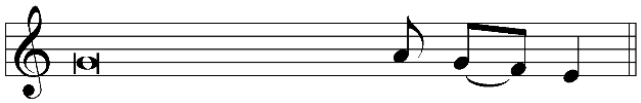
STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis



[M]: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

[M]: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: Amen.

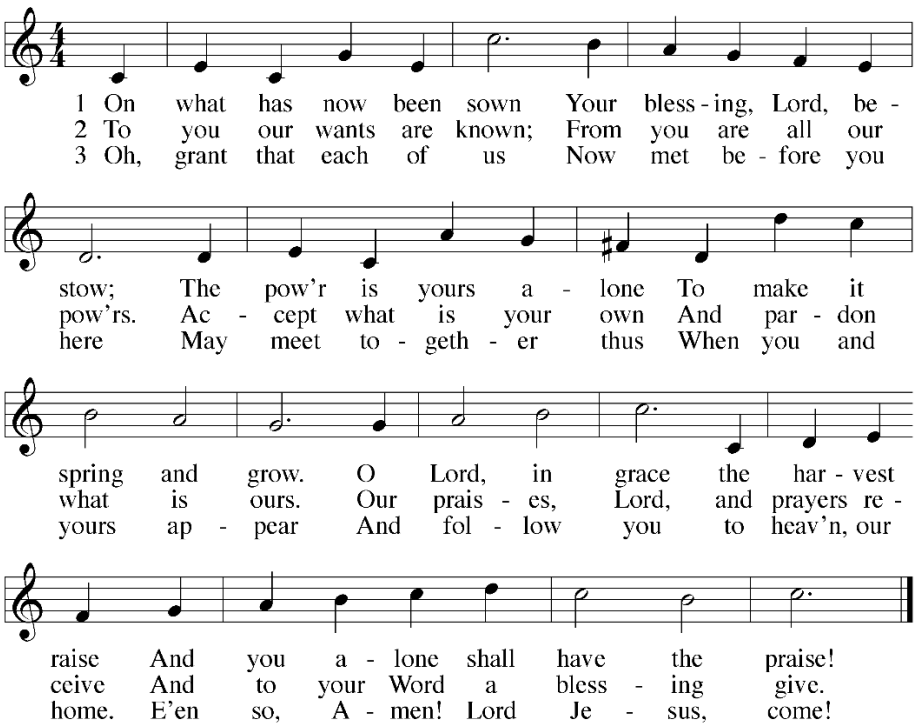
[M]: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (✝) give you peace.

[C]: Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN 322 **On What Has Now Been Sown**

322 On What Has Now Been Sown



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, abr., adapt., alt.
Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH (66 66 88) John Darwall, 1731–89.

THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY	10:15 am Bible Class
THURSDAY	5:00 pm Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting
SUNDAY	8:00 am Worship (Inside) 9:15 am – 10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (Inside)

FLOWERS

Karen Thomasson provided the chancel flowers in thanksgiving to God for the blessings she enjoys as his child. She has reason aplenty to thank God for all the blessings of life both spiritual and temporal that she enjoys. We join with her to thank God for all he has done for her in her life!

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Open house for Prince of Peace Preschool is scheduled for July 18th, 1:00 pm. If you know of someone looking for a preschool for their child, this is a great opportunity for them to get a first hand look at all that Prince of Peace Preschool has to offer!

SUMMERVILLE PASTOR INSTALLATION

On Sunday July 18th, at 4:00 pm, our neighboring WELS church in Summerville, SC will install their new pastor, Rev. Michael Otterstatter. If you have any interest in attending this installation service and dinner, please let Pastor Neumann know before July 10th and he will let the Summerville congregation know how many visitors from our congregation to expect. Praise be to God for sending a worker to this congregation.

Operating Offerings		**Attendance**		**Mortgage Progress**	
6/13/21	$ 4,289.99	8:00 am	28	6/13/21	$ 540.00
Month to Date	$ 7,904.99	10:30 am	35	Month to Date	$ 2,655.00
YTD	$ 91,656.00	Total	63	YTD	$ 19,860.00
Budget YTD	$ 95,654.00			Budget YTD	$ 15,769.00
2020 YTD	$ 101,906.00			2020 YTD	$ 23,878.00

Weekly needs June Operating Offering **$ 4,028.00**
Monthly Mortgage Payment **$ 2,867.00**

All Scripture readings from The New International Version. (2011). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
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