

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



## A Godly View of Government

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023



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

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

[princeofpeacemartinez.com](http://princeofpeacemartinez.com)  
[facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez](https://facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez)  
[instagram.com/princeofpeace\\_martinez](https://instagram.com/princeofpeace_martinez)

Pastor Jonathan Neumann  
706-860-1600 (Church Office)  
719-367-1636 (Cell)  
[pastorjonathanneumann@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjonathanneumann@gmail.com)

Preschool Director: Jeanne Thomas  
706-860-1655 (Preschool)  
[princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com](mailto:princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com)

## **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. We look forward to getting to know you better in order to serve you fully with God's word!

## **THEME FOR TODAY**

Talking politics might be as controversial as ever these days. Conversations about politics are as polarized as they have ever been in our lifetimes. That's saying a lot since it's always been popular to complain about the government. Who enjoys paying taxes? Who likes being told what they can and can't do? In the Bible, God tells us to respect the government and honor those who hold positions of authority. Authority, while not necessarily directly bestowed by God, nonetheless comes from God. As Jesus told Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, when he was on trial, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." When we listen to God and what he has to say about government and our time on this earth, he calms our fears, quiets our anger, and gives us a peace that we will never find in any political party, executive decision, or social structure.

*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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



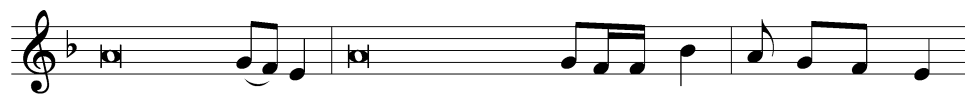
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



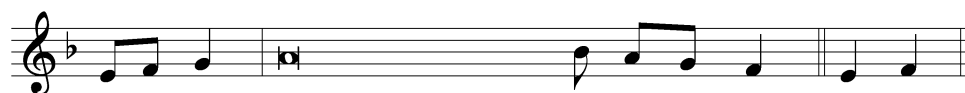
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; 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

*Daniel 1:3–21*

*Living as exiles in a foreign land, four young Hebrew men remained faithful to the one true God while also respecting the earthly government authority over them.*

<sup>3</sup>Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— <sup>4</sup>young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup>The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

<sup>6</sup>Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup>The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

<sup>8</sup>But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. <sup>9</sup>Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, <sup>10</sup>but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

<sup>11</sup>Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup>"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup>Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." <sup>14</sup>So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup>At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup>So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

<sup>17</sup>To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

<sup>18</sup>At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup>The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. <sup>20</sup>In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

<sup>21</sup>And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 96A Let the Heavens Rejoice

*Psalm 96A*

## Second Reading

*Romans 13:1-7*

*The Apostle Paul gives us encouragements and reminders about the authorities over us in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

<sup>2</sup>Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup>For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup>For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

<sup>6</sup>This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup>Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 2:10



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

In Christ you have been brought to fullness.  
He is the head over every power and authority.

*Refrain*

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## Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

*Jesus' enemies tried to trick him with a question about paying taxes to Caesar, but Jesus taught them an important lesson about God's authority.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

<sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup>and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

<sup>21</sup>"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

<sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## 619 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him

CW 619

**Sermon**

*Honor Authority; Honor God*

*Matthew 22:15-22*

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal God, with your almighty power and wisdom you guide and guard the universe you created. Every planet and every star remain in place according to your design. You know the far reaches of space and observe even heavenly lights we cannot see.

**Lead us to marvel every day at the wonders of your creation.**

You created our planet to proclaim the depth of your majesty and love. At your command the world turns, the breezes blow, and the waters surge. Here you placed the crown of your creation, your human creatures, and gave us the bounty of the earth for our provision and pleasure.

**Help us to value and protect the blessings of nature you have given us.**

You have created the family, arranged society, and established governments to provide order and stability in our lives. You command us to respect and support the authorities



that function with your permission. You teach us to love all people, those who are like us and those who are not, and to care for those in need of help.

**Move us to love others as your Son loved us.**

Guard and guide us when you allow serious diseases, financial uncertainty, and social unrest to torment our country. You surely punish the wicked in troubled times, but you also call people to turn away from sin to your forgiving love.

**Lead us to repent and examine our thoughts, words, and actions.**

Enable the medical community to discover cures for diseases and plagues that afflict our planet. Preserve the lives of your people that we may continue to share your love with others. Spare the lives of those who do not know you so they may find you and be saved.

**Give us confidence to place our bodies and lives into your protecting hand.**

Allow farms and factories, businesses and institutions, schools and communities to prosper and provide the blessings you desire to bestow on us. Use the blessing of wealth to enable us to spread the gospel throughout the world.

**Teach us to be faithful stewards of your blessings and lead us to manage them according to your will.**

Free us from all thoughts, words, and actions of prejudice and pride. Help us to see in all people the faces of those who have been redeemed by the innocent life and precious blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose for everyone from every nation under heaven.

**Help us to overcome the racial tensions that plague our land.**

Give wisdom to the leaders of our land and bend their will to yours. Drive away party spirit and harsh rhetoric that often deepen the divisions among people. Help our nation find contentment in helping and protecting one another.

**Guide us so we may avoid the pitfalls of anger and arrogance.**

Keep in your care all those who are sick and suffering in these troubled times. Restore health according to your will. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Comfort those you are leading to heaven with the anticipation of their eternal home.

**Move us to pray fervently for those in need.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We come to you on behalf of the people and nation we love.

**Hear us for the sake of Jesus, your Son and our Savior. Amen.**

## Offering

### 750 We Give Thee but Thine Own

CW 750

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

## **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.**

## **855 The Church's One Foundation**

CW 855

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 5:00 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Bible Class
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fall Festival

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

Karen Thomasson purchased the flowers for the chancel area today to thank God for the blessing of life – especially the privilege of living life as a child of God! Living life as a child of God is to enjoy blessings beyond measure on a daily basis! May we all remember the precious gift of eternal life that is ours for Jesus’ sake and live each day to the fullest as God’s own people.



### GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



If you are a Georgia resident and pay Georgia state income tax, you can redirect up to \$5,000 of the money you pay to the government in the form of income tax to Prince of Peace Preschool through this program. Redirecting your tax dollars in this way helps us grow our school and financial aid resources. For more information contact Jeanne Thomas or Ann Wendt. You can also check out the Apogee website at [www.apogee123.org](http://www.apogee123.org)

### FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival will be held next Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:30 am following the Service. There is a sign-up sheet for bringing sides, drinks, and desserts on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office. We will also be having trunk-or-treat in connection with the Fall Festival.



Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
10/15/23	\$ 2,111.00	10/15/23	68	10/15/23	\$ 330.00
Month to Date	\$ 9,524.00			Month to Date	\$ 660.00
YTD	\$ 153,716.00			YTD	\$ 33,240.00
Budget YTD	\$ 159,092.00			Budget YTD	\$ 27,524.00
2022 YTD	\$ 143,655.00			2022 YTD	\$ 35,375.00

**Weekly needs October Operating Offering**

**\$ 3,922.00**

**Monthly Mortgage Payment**

**\$ 2,867.00**