

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sight for the Blind

Lent 4

March 19, 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  
facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez  
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! 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

We know that unbelief will have consequences in the future—eternal separation from God. But unbelief also has consequences now. It makes you blind, in a sense. The unbeliever is unable to see the world as it really is. That which is harmful the unbeliever considers good; that which is good he considers meaningless. The unbeliever cannot see the danger that lurks behind temptation. He cannot see the blessing contained in God’s Word. The unbeliever cannot see the tragic fate that lies in his future, and he certainly cannot see the Savior. The Old Testament said that restoration of sight to the blind was one of the works of the Messiah. In his ministry, Jesus healed those who were physically blind. But even if our eyes work just fine, we still need Jesus to give us spiritual vision. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Jesus meets our greatest needs. He provides sight for the spiritually blind.

## 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 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.**

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

*God promises to lead the blind to safety and turn their darkness to light.*

- <sup>14</sup>“For a long time I have kept silent,  
I have been quiet and held myself back.  
But now, like a woman in childbirth,  
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
- <sup>15</sup>I will lay waste the mountains and hills  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn rivers into islands  
and dry up the pools.
- <sup>16</sup>I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,  
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;  
I will turn the darkness into light before them  
and make the rough places smooth.  
These are the things I will do;  
I will not forsake them.
- <sup>17</sup>But those who trust in idols,  
who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’  
will be turned back in utter shame.
- <sup>18</sup>“Hear, you deaf;  
look, you blind, and see!
- <sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
and deaf like the messenger I send?  
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,  
blind like the servant of the LORD?
- <sup>20</sup>You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;  
your ears are open, but you do not listen.”
- <sup>21</sup>It pleased the LORD  
for the sake of his righteousness  
to make his law great and glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 27C The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Psalm 27C

## Refrain

The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of  
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

## Tone

Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;

be merciful to me and / answer me.

Do not hide your / face from me,

do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.

Do not reject me or for- / sake me,

God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,

the LORD will re- / ceive me.

I remain confi- / dent of this:

I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.

Wait / for the LORD;

be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: David Haas

Tune: © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708875

Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708875

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

*Those who have seen the light of Christ strive to leave deeds of darkness behind.*

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup>This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 12:2



*Refrain*



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

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

*Refrain*

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708875

*Jesus miraculously enables a man who had been born blind to see the Christ both physically and spiritually.*

<sup>1</sup>As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup>“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup>After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup>“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup>Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup>Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>34</sup>To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

<sup>36</sup>“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

<sup>37</sup>Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

<sup>38</sup>Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

*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.*

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

**Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.**

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer*

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

**Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.**

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

## Offering

# The Sacrament

Stand

## Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

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**

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**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  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

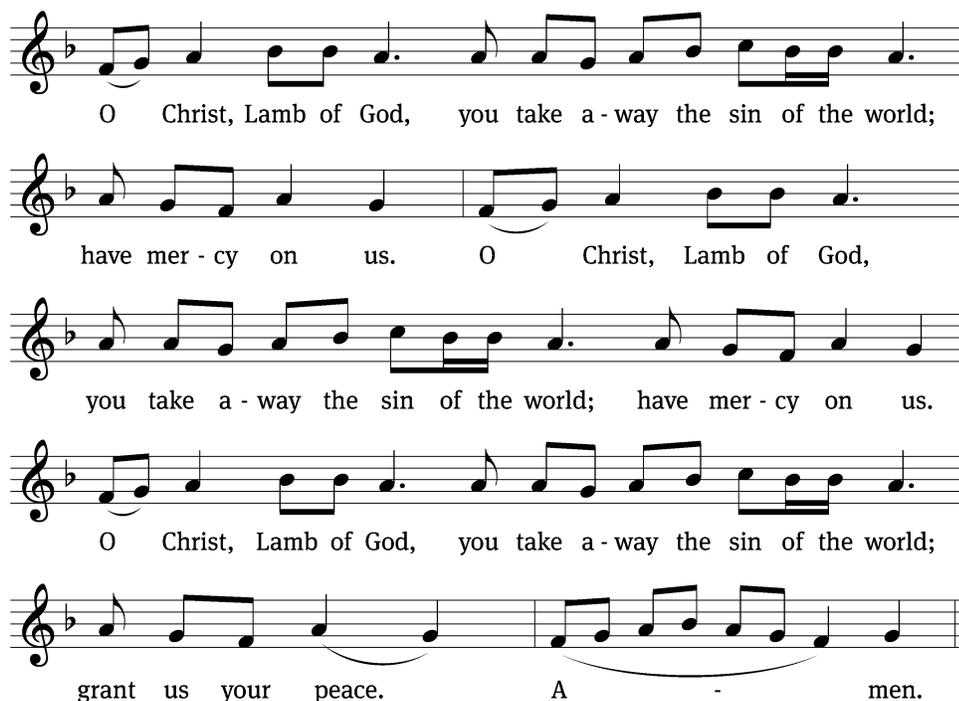
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\dagger$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

*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.**

## **814 Just as I Am, without One Plea**

CW 814

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright

© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

## **EQUIPPED - The Armor of God**

Think you don't need to be equipped? Think again. You may (or may not) be surprised at how the devil, the world, and our flesh attack us every day with lies of every sort to try and destroy our faith in Jesus.

The good news is that God has equipped us with his very own armor to help we, his children, fight against the devil and his evil schemes.

The **Prince of Peace Women's Bible Study** group meets the **first Saturday of every month**, generally September through May, and will be looking at the six (6) pieces of armor God has given believers to defend themselves. They will meet on **Saturday, April 1** and on **Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 AM**.

*For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to take a stand on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to stand. Eph 6:11*

**Equipped-Part 1** Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, and  
**April 1, 2023** Gospel of Peace (Feet)

**Equipped-Part 2** Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, and Sword of the Spirit  
**May 6, 2023**

**PLEASE COME...and BRING A FRIEND!**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | 10:15 am Bible Class<br>6:30 pm Lenten Worship<br>7:00 pm Bible Class           |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | 9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br>NOON Spring Carnival |

### FLOWERS

There are still a number of open slots for purchasing altar flowers this spring. If you would like to sign up for any of these available dates, you may put your name on the sign-up sheet in the hallway next to pastor's office.



### SPRING CARNIVAL



Spring Carnival returns this March 26<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm-3 pm. There will be food, games, and a bounce house. The Preschool will also be running an open house for those who are interested in learning about enrolling their children. All are welcome! Invite those you know! **Volunteers are needed to greet visitors and help run the games.**

### LWMS SPRING RALLY

April 15, 2023, Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church, Hiram, GA.

Guest Speaker: Reverend Richard Starr from Truth in Love Ministry.

Please see the LWMS bulletin board for more info. Speak with Barb Smith or Su Hanson if you are interested in attending.

### LILIES!

You may sign up for your own Easter Lilly plant on the bulletin board. The cost for the Lilies this year will be approximately \$8.50 each. Those who sign up and purchase the plants may take them home following the Easter Sunday worship service.



| Operating Offerings |              | Attendance |    | Mortgage Progress |             |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|----|-------------------|-------------|
| 3/8 & 3/12/23       | \$ 5,499.00  |            |    | 3/8 & 3/12/23     | \$ 215.00   |
| Month to Date       | \$ 13,029.00 | 3/8/23     | 19 | Month to Date     | \$ 630.00   |
| YTD                 | \$ 42,275.00 |            |    | YTD               | \$ 7,371.00 |
| Budget YTD          | \$ 40,773.00 |            |    | Budget YTD        | \$ 7,168.00 |
| 2022 YTD            | \$ 39,068.00 | 3/12/23    | 58 | 2022 YTD          | \$ 8,597.00 |

**Weekly needs March Operating Offering**

**\$ 3,771.00**

**Monthly Mortgage Payment**

**\$ 2,867.00**