

PRINCE OF PEACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



From the River to the Mountain:
The Kindness in His Calling

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024



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

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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

We try to hide our faults and failures from others. We want people to see us at our best. Perhaps we assume that if people knew what we were really like, they would want nothing to do with us. There’s no hiding anything from God. He is all-seeing and all-knowing. Christ Jesus has witnessed our very worst, even the sins that only occurred in our heads. The psalmist says, “You perceive my thoughts from afar. You are familiar with all my ways” (139:2,3). Yet even though Jesus knows all our faults and failures, he badly wants something to do with us. So, he calls us to follow him. He wants us to be with him, secure in his love of forgiveness. Here is this week’s epiphany: Jesus shows kindness when he calls us to discipleship. More, he shows kindness by giving us the ability to answer that call, so that we might always be near him and his blessing.

January 7 th	First Sunday after Epiphany	-	It Begins with Baptism
January 14th	Second Sunday after Epiphany	-	The Kindness in His Calling
January 21 st	Third Sunday after Epiphany	-	Committed to a Lofty Charge
January 28 th	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	-	Absolute Authority
February 4 th	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	-	The Devil’s Work Undone
February 11 th	Transfiguration (Last Sunday of Epiphany)	-	A Glimpse of His True Glory

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,



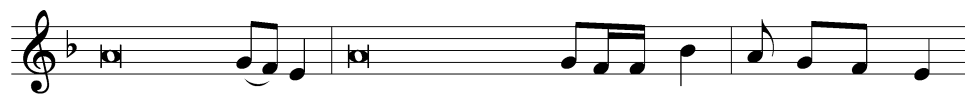
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



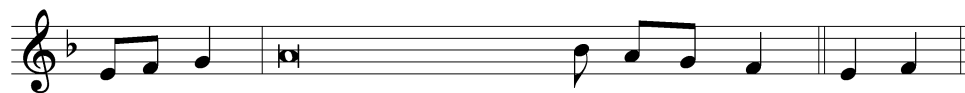
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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.

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1–10

At a time in history when the word of the LORD was rare, the LORD shows kindness to the boy Samuel by calling to him.

¹The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

²One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 139

¹You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.

²**You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴**Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.**

⁵You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.**

⁷Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸**If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰**even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"

¹²**even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

¹³For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.**

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.**

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸**Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.**

¹⁹If only you, God, would slay the wicked!
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
²⁰**They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.**
²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
²²**I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.**
²³Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴**See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

God called us to faith through the gospel, not because of any merit or worthiness in us, but entirely because of his grace and kindness.

¹³But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 1:29



Refrain



John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Refrain

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Gospel

John 1:43–51

Jesus proves to Nathanael that he knows absolutely everything about us. In kindness, Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to follow him.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Sermon

Called Through the Gospel

2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

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.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.
Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

711 Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

CW 711

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.

716 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

CW 716

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY	10:15 am Bible Class 5:00 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Bible Class
THURSDAY	5:00 pm Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting
FRIDAY	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study@ Cracker Barrel
SUNDAY	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:45 am Open Forum and Sandwich Sunday

CONGREGATIONAL OPEN FORUM

There will be a congregational open forum after the worship service on January 21st to discuss the current state and future of Prince of Peace Preschool. There will be a Sandwich Sunday fellowship meal after the meeting. A sign up sheet for bringing food is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Jeanne Thomas is celebrating her birthday today! In order to thank God for the blessings of life, the Thomas family purchased the chancel flowers to beautify God's house for worship. May we all remember that birthdays are regular reminders to us that God has not only given us physical life, but he has given us eternal life as well through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Happy Birthday Jeanne! God be with you, and fill your life with joy as you live each day to the praise and glory of God!



Prince of Peace Preschool, once again has earned the highest rating (3 stars ★★ ★) by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Congratulations!

BUNCO

Please join us for Bunco on Friday, January 26th, at 7:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. Come one, come all for a night of fun and fellowship—no experience required! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office.



Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
1/7/24	\$4,860.00	1/7/24	61	1/7/24	\$ 400.00
Month to Date	\$4,860.00			Month to Date	\$ 400.00
YTD	\$4,860.00			YTD	\$ 400.00
Budget YTD	\$3,863.00			Budget YTD	\$ 717.00
2023 YTD	\$4,408.00			2023 YTD	\$ 790.00

Weekly needs January Operating Offering
Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$3,863.00
\$2,867.00