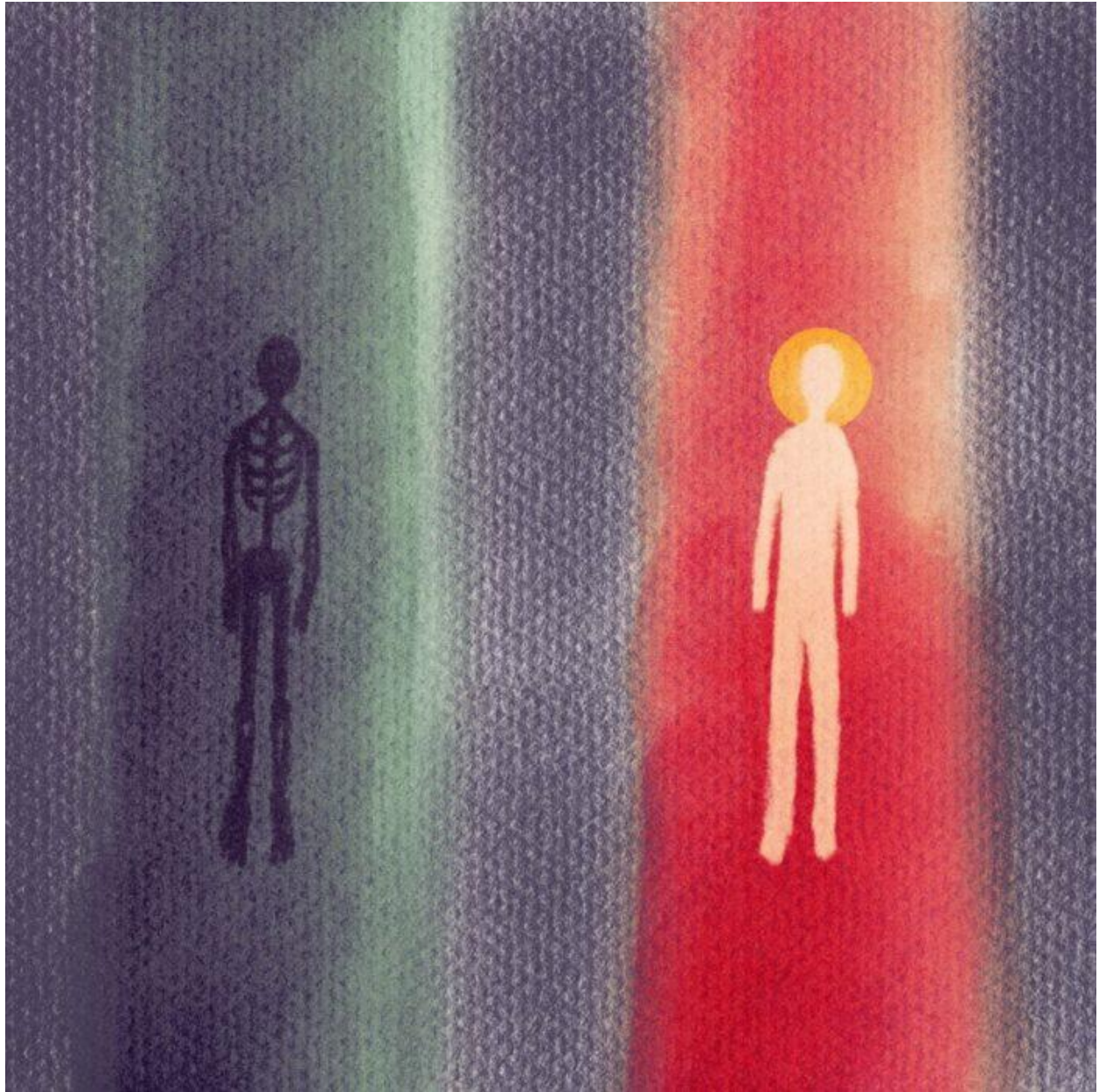


Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Shifting the Blame Won't Save You

18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 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

Preschool Director: Jeanne Thomas
706-860-1655 (Preschool)
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

It is common for people to find someone else to blame when things go wrong. A person might blame their circumstances, blame a corporation, blame the government, blame anyone but themselves when something bad happens. What people rarely do is place the blame for individual actions on an individual, especially when that individual is yourself. In his Word, God tells us that each one of us is, in fact, responsible for our own actions. And, our sinful actions make us worthy of death, no matter how small they may seem or how many excuses we try to make. God doesn't want us to perish though, he wants us to repent and turn to him!

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.

Remain seated

Holy Baptism

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

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us
should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance,
and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.
It also means that a new person should daily arise
to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

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

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Townsend Joseph Thomas, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart + to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Townsend as your own child and made him a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to him and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The service continues with the Prayer of the Day.

The Word

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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

Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32

The Israelites complained that God was mistreating them because of sins of past generations. God reminded them everyone is culpable for their own sin and called them to repent.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“ ‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

³“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

The Bible encourages us to imitate Christ's mindset of humility.

¹Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 51:17



Refrain



My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.

Refrain

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

Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

In a conversation with some of his opponents, Jesus teaches that what God truly desires from us are repentant hearts.

²³Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹“ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Sermon

Repent and Live!

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

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

Offering

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

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until 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

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

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

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.

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave

CW 570

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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY	10:15 am Bible Class 6:00 pm Bible Class
FRIDAY	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel
SATURDAY	10:00 am Women's Bible Study
SUNDAY	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship

CHANCEL FLOWERS



Terry and Ann provided the flowers for the chancel today to give thanks and praise to God on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary! Happy anniversary to Terry and Ann. We join them in thanking God for the blessings of marriage and ask him to bless all the families of our congregation with harmony and joy as we live our lives for Christ.

GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

If you are a Georgia resident and pay Georgia state income tax, you can redirect up to \$2,500.00 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



FALL FESTIVAL



Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 29th 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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study is this coming Saturday, October 7th at 10:00 AM. Come join your sisters in Christ as we learn more about Eve, how God showed his grace to her, and discuss how God's grace to Eve flows into our lives as Christian women living in the 21st Century. BRING A FRIEND!

Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
9/24/23	\$ 1,316.00	9/24/23	55	9/24/23	\$ 5,000.00
Month to Date	\$ 12,034.00			Month to Date	\$ 5,945.00
YTD	\$ 143,487.00			YTD	\$ 32,280.00
Budget YTD	\$ 147,325.00			Budget YTD	\$ 25,804.00
2022 YTD	\$ 134,707.00			2022 YTD	\$ 33,423.00

Weekly needs September Operating Offering
Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 3,880.00
\$ 2,867.00

