

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd

Easter 4

April 30, 2023



***“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! 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**

Traditionally the fourth Sunday after Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. On a number of occasions, Jesus referred to himself as a shepherd, indicating his care and concern for all his people. He even called himself the Good Shepherd, differentiating himself from those who do not properly care for the sheep. This Easter season we learn that Jesus lives to shepherd us. He directs us, provides for us, and protects us. “For ‘you were like sheep going astray,’ but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” Apart from Jesus we wander and will only find danger and destruction. With Jesus, even though we may suffer for doing good, no one can truly harm us. Just as Christ triumphed though he suffered, so too, we triumph with him.

*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,

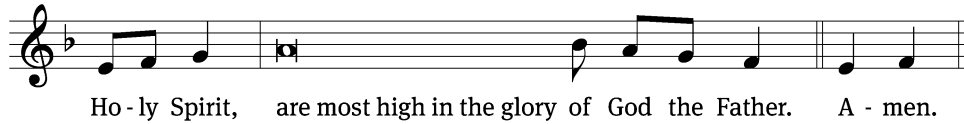
God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

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



## The Word

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

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

*The early Church was marked by devotion to apostolic teaching and genuine love for one another. And the Good Shepherd's flock grew.*

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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

### Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19–25

*St. Peter calls us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer, even if it means that we suffer for doing good.*

<sup>19</sup>For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup>When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup>For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14



*Refrain*



I am the good shepherd;  
I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

*Refrain*

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## Gospel

John 10:1–10

*Jesus is not only our Good Shepherd. He is the gate through which we enter into the green pastures of salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## 552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CW 552

*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**

## **Offering**

**555 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want**

CW 555

*Stand*



Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.**

## **551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep**

CW 551

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

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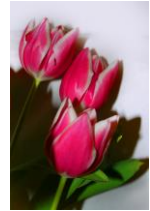
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## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 6:00 pm Bible Class
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10:00 am Women's Bible Study
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 am Worship w/Lord's Supper; Confirmation Sunday

### FLOWERS

Mike and Meagin Hilbert purchased the chancel flowers today to give thanks to God for blessings received on the occasion of Mike's birthday! May God continue to bless Mike and Meagin with his promises to be with them daily guiding their lives and giving them the peace of forgiveness and the joy of salvation! Happy birthday Mike!



### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



On Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>, Tyson Knutson will be confirmed. Tyson has completed his catechism studies and will be confirmed before the congregation during the worship service next week. We thank God for the blessings he has shown Tyson through his studies these past two years of catechism. We ask God to continue to bless him as he continues to grow in faith and knowledge! While confirmation is certainly a milestone event, it is far from the end of growing in faith!

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Prince of Peace Women's Bible Study group meets Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 10:00 am. The study will be looking at the last three of the six pieces of armor God has given believers to defend themselves. The good news is that God has equipped us with his very own armor to help us, his children, fight against the devil and his evil schemes.



Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
4/23/23	\$ 2,320.00	4/23/23	58	4/23/23	\$ 15.00
Month to Date	\$ 14,493.00			Month to Date	\$ 4,175.00
YTD	\$68,399.00			YTD	\$14,115.00
Budget YTD	\$63,460.00			Budget YTD	\$10,895.00
2022 YTD	\$62,691.00			2022 YTD	\$13,258.00

**Weekly needs April Operating Offering**  
**Monthly Mortgage Payment**

**\$ 3,786.00**  
**\$ 2,867.00**