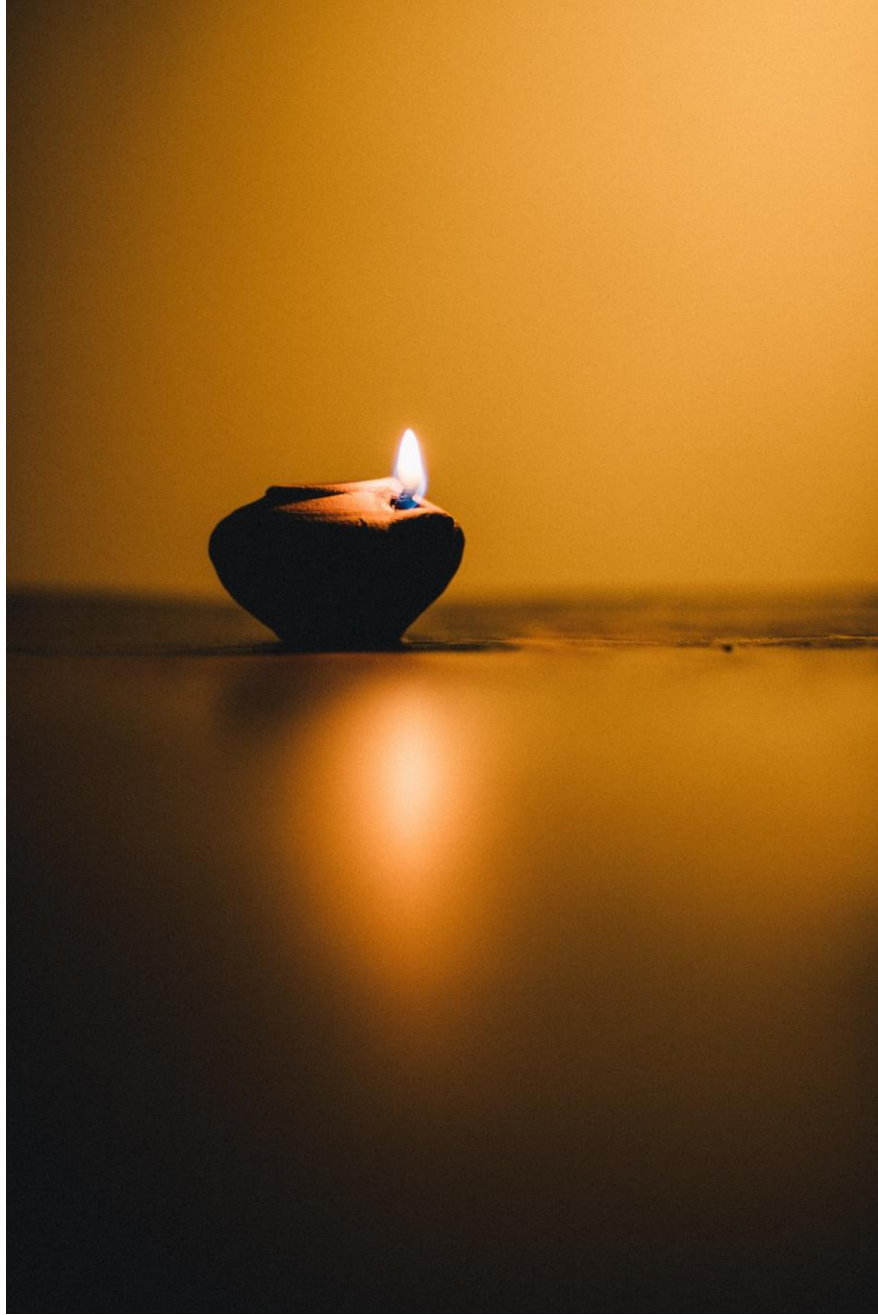


Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



A Time for Watchfulness

24th Sunday After Pentecost

November 12, 2023



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

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Martinez, GA 30907

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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

If you've ever had a night of bad sleep, then you know that it can be hard to focus and concentrate on anything the next day. A lack of sleep keeps us sleepy and as a result clouds our minds and keeps us from being as alert as we would be when well-rested and fully awake. As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted by all the cares and concerns of life on this earth and become spiritually drowsy. God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time in between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness.

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,



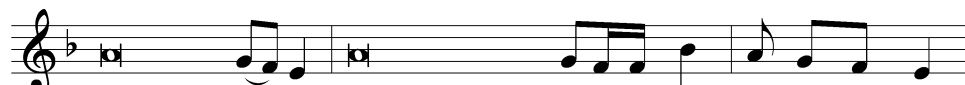
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



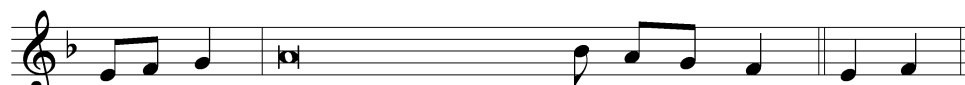
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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 and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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

Isaiah 52:1-6

The nation of Israel was sleepwalking through life, exhausted by their present problems. "Awake!" the prophet cries. Israel is to watch for the coming redemption.

¹Awake, awake, Zion,
 clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
 Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
 will not enter you again.

²Shake off your dust;
 rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
 Daughter Zion, now a captive.

³For this is what the LORD says:

 "You were sold for nothing,
 and without money you will be redeemed."

⁴For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

 "At first my people went down to Egypt to live;
 lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

⁵"And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD.

 "For my people have been taken away for nothing,
 and those who rule them mock,"
declares the LORD.

 "And all day long
 my name is constantly blasphemed.

⁶Therefore my people will know my name;
 therefore in that day they will know
that it is I who foretold it.
 Yes, it is I."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

90A Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Psalm 90A

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

St. Paul teaches how we should wait for Jesus to return. Be watchful. Don't fall asleep. Live as children of the light.

¹Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42



Refrain



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

Therefore keep watch,
because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

The wise, those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom, enter into the great wedding banquet.

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹²“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

486 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

CW 486

Sermon

Therefore Keep Watch

Matthew 25:1–13

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

Lord Jesus, King of kings and Lord of the nations, we thank you for our military veterans. Through those who have “kept the watch” on our behalf,
you have prevented war from advancing to our shores, frustrated the plans of wicked people, and protected us from harm.

Because of their time of service to our country, there are many veterans who do not live in peace. There are many who do not wish to be thanked for their service, because they are ashamed by what they have done or failed to do.

Move us to offer our patient, listening hearts to those veterans who suffer, including those who suffer in silence. Help us to point them to the perfect peace that is now theirs in Christ.

Although none of us fully enjoys the perfect peace we have in you, Lord Jesus, may we wait and watch for that day when you will restore all things for us.

You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Although the devil and his allies do not know the meaning of “ceasefire” and continue their assault to rob people of peace in Jesus, remind us of the armor you provide to protect minds and hearts.

Move all who fight the good fight of faith, especially those who serve our nation on our behalf, “put on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

Give to all who have served and all who are actively serving, the identity and purpose that comes only from you, that through baptism, they are forgiven, loved children of their heavenly Father, bought and purchased with the blood of his Son, called and kept in the true faith by the Holy Spirit.

Have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Amen.

Offering

713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

CW 713

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.

884 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

CW 884

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY - TUESDAY	Pastor @Circuit Meeting
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 @ CrackerBarrel
SUNDAY	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/Lord's Supper

VOTER'S MEETING

The annual voter's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 10th. The meeting will take place immediately following the worship service. All male members 18+ are voters. I strongly encourage you to make plans to be in attendance this Sunday to worship the LORD with your brothers and sisters at Prince of Peace, hear what has happened in the last year of ministry, and provide your input on the future of the gospel ministry in this place! Don't forget to use the time leading up to this day to discuss your thoughts with your family and other church members.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We will have a special Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 22nd, at 6:30 pm. Come and remember who it is that gives us all that we have to be thankful for—most of all our salvation!



CHANCEL FLOWERS



Charles and Angela Babcock purchased the flowers for the chancel area today in recognition of their daughter Clara's birthday. We are reminded that life is a precious gift from God to be used to the praise and glory of God. May this child grow to know her Savior better day by day and confess the faith clearly throughout her life! Happy Birthday, Clara!

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



LUTHERAN MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP (LMSG) – AMMO BOX

LMSG is working closely with many Synod wide efforts to assist military families in many different ways. Gifts for this work may be placed in the Ammo Box in the entry area. Please take time to read the information about LMSG on the bulletin board in the hallway.



Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
11/5/23	\$ 4,419.00	11/5/23	55	11/5/23	\$ 115.00
Month to Date	\$ 4,419.00			Month to Date	\$ 115.00
YTD	\$ 162,658.00			YTD	\$ 33,735.00
Budget YTD	\$ 170,926.00			Budget YTD	\$ 29,388.00
2022 YTD	\$ 152,957.00			2022 YTD	\$ 37,433.00

Weekly needs November Operating Offering
Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 3,990.00
\$ 2,867.00