

# Prince of Peace

## Evangelical Lutheran Church



A Time to Yearn for the End

Last Sunday of Church Year

November 26, 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

Consider the Christian man whose body aches from both the cancer and the chemo. Look at that faithful old woman, back arched by time, fingers twisted by arthritis, eyes close to blindness. These believers may pray for death, precisely because they know that for the children of God, death is not the end of life. Death is the end of sorrow and pain. They yearn for the end of those things, and the beginning of their perfect eternity with Jesus. We have come to the end of the Church Year. It is time to talk about the end of this world on Judgment Day. That day does not scare the believer. The first time Christ came he saved us from our sin and the accusations of the devil. The second time Christ comes, he will come again to end this broken world and usher all the saints into everlasting glory.

## 620 O Worship the King

CW 620

*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,



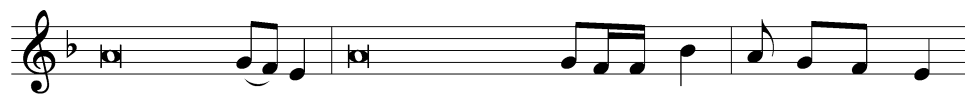
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



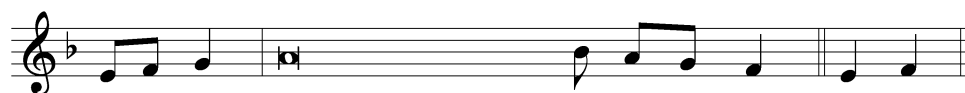
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; 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

*Daniel 7:9-10,13-14*

*The prophet Daniel sees a vision of the Last Judgment that is filled with fire and thrones and books... and a Savior who will establish an everlasting kingdom.*

<sup>9</sup>“As I looked,

“thrones were set in place,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.

His clothing was as white as snow;  
the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,  
and its wheels were all ablaze.

<sup>10</sup>A river of fire was flowing,  
coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;  
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,  
and the books were opened.

<sup>13</sup>“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup>He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

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

## 95A The Rock of Our Salvation

Psalm 95A

### Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

*St. Paul gives us the encouragement that when Christ comes again he will raise the dead, and death shall be forever ended.*

<sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup>According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 22:13



*Refrain*



I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

*Refrain*

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## Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

*Jesus describes judgement day, when he will return in glory and separate sheep from goats.*

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup>“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

<sup>37</sup>“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup>“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

<sup>41</sup>“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

<sup>44</sup>“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

<sup>45</sup>“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup>“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## 487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CW 487

## Sermon

*Come, Take Your Inheritance!*

Matthew 25:31–46

*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**

Eternal and gracious Father, we are aware that we live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

**Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.**

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

**Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.**

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with



patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.  
**Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.**

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

**Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.**

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

**Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

**Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet. Amen.**

## Offering

### 493 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CW 493

*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.

## 848 For Me to Live Is Jesus

CW 848

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 5:00 pm Catechism 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 Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/Lord's Supper

## FLOWER CHART

The 2024 flower chart is posted in the hallway. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday of the year, please put your name down on that date and the occasion, if desired. The cost of the flowers this year will be \$ 37.00.

## VOTER'S MEETING

The annual voter's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will take place immediately following the worship service. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board next to Pastor's office. 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.

## CHANCEL FLOWERS



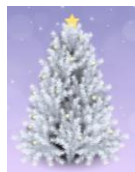
Terrence Wendt celebrated his birthday on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. His parents, Terry and Ann Wendt, provided the chancel flowers today to give thanks to God for the blessings he has brought into their lives. We pray that Terrence will continue to grow in faith and make the most of life by using his spiritual gifts to the praise and glory of God. Happy Birthday, Terrence!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM you are invited to join your sisters in Christ once again for Bible Study! Pastor will be leading an Advent devotion and the ladies will be working on sending out Christmas cards. Come and enjoy fellowship and learning as we draw nearer to the Christmas season!



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING



We will be decorating the church for Christmas after the service today!

## 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](http://www.apogee123.org)



Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
11/19/23	\$ 2,005.00	11/19/23	67	11/19/23	\$ 5,015.00
Month to Date	\$ 13,330.00			Month to Date	\$ 5,345.00
YTD	\$ 171,569.00			YTD	\$ 38,965.00
Budget YTD	\$ 178,905.00	11/22/23	20	Budget YTD	\$ 30,821.00
2022 YTD	\$ 159,629.00			2022 YTD	\$ 38,947.00

Weekly needs November Operating Offering  
Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 3,990.00  
\$ 2,867.00