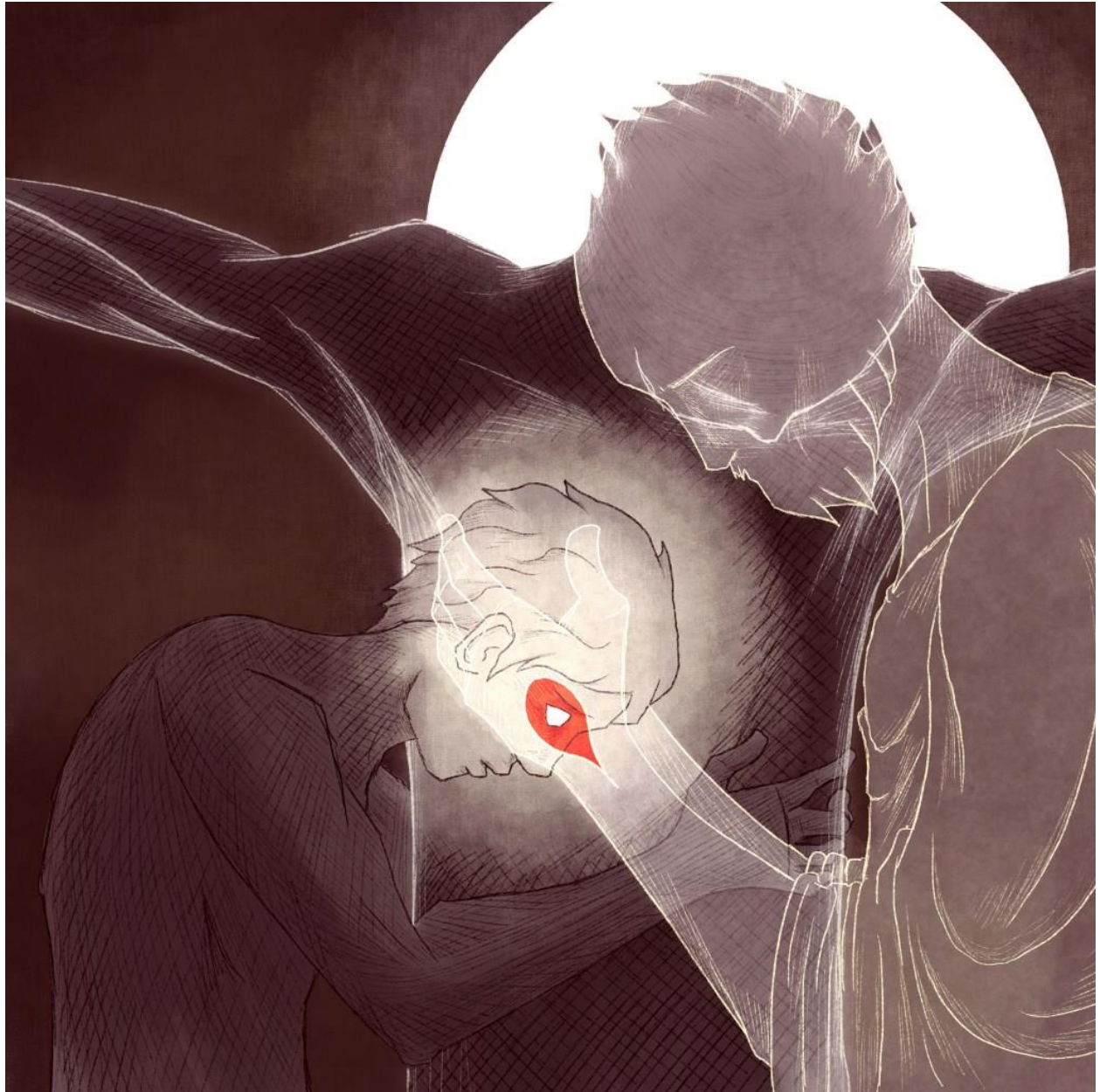


# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Our Condemnation is Crushed by God's  
Grace

Lent 4

March 27, 2022



***"Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace."***

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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**

We assume people get what they deserve. We assume what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. And all those assumptions must be crushed. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. Like gravity, grace is a constant force at work in how God deals with us and how he wants us to deal with others. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

## **WORSHIP SERIES**

We are about to begin the season of the Church called Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring: "*lengten*"—when the days grow longer. For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. Believers humbly acknowledge that sin is the ultimate source of all the crushing moments in life. Our sin even crushed Christ. Yet, on Easter Sunday, Jesus took up his life again. Our Savior crushed both death and the serpent's head. Yes, Lent is a solemn season. But it is also a season of great hope. With the psalmist we say, "The Lord saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Next Week: ***HUMAN REJECTION IS CRUSHED BY DIVINE EXALTATION***

# The Service – Setting One

## 916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916

*Stand*

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

## Confession

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 mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

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 mer - cy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**A - men.**

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# The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; 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 12:1-6*

*God's grace turns the gloom of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>In that day you will say:

“I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away  
and you have comforted me.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Romans 8:1–10

*In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us, there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

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

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:10



*Refrain*



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

*Refrain*

*How does God respond to those who object to or are angered by his grace? He responds with more grace.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup>“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## **576 Amazing Grace**

CW 576

### **Sermon**

*Luke 15:1–3, 11–32*

- God's Solution is Grace
- I. When I think I can't be forgiven
  - II. When I think I can't forgive

*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.*

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Offering

### 523 How Deep the Father's Love for Us

CW 523

*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.**

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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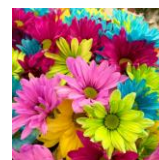
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## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30 pm Catechism
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 6:30 pm Mid-week Lent Worship 7:00 pm Bible Class
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am Worship w/Lord's Supper 9:15 am – 10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/Lord's Supper

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

Karen Thomasson has purchased the flowers for the chancel today in honor of her daughter's and grandson's birthdays. May God bless you all and fill your hearts with humble gratitude for the privilege of living life to the honor and glory of God all these years. Happy birthday Shannon and Weston!



## BUNCO



Efforts are being made to get a monthly Bunco event resumed! The hope is to have at least 12 people on a regular basis in order to make play more fun. If you'd be interested, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at church. If there's enough interest, we will hope to begin in May!! If you have questions, please contact Debbie Muehlfeld.

## EASTER

### SCHEDULE

- 7:00 am - Sunrise Worship Service (inside church)
- 8:15 am - Breakfast, followed by the children's egg hunt
- 10:30 am - Easter Worship Service

### LILIES!



You may sign up for your own Easter Lilly plant on the bulletin board. The cost for the Lilies this year will be approximately \$8.50 each. Those who sign up and purchase the plants may take them home following the Easter Sunday worship service.

### EGG HUNT

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for assisting with the easter egg hunt for the children.



### BREAKFAST



There is a sign-up sheet regarding Easter Sunday Breakfast on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office.

<u>Operating Offerings</u>		<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Mortgage Progress</u>	
3/16 & 3/20/22	\$ 3,795.00	8:00 am	30	3/16 & 3/20/22	\$ 462.00
Month to Date	\$ 18,094.00	10:30 am	38	Month to Date	\$ 3,647.00
YTD	\$ 47,307.00	Total	68	YTD	\$ 10,388.00
Budget YTD	\$ 45,426.00	35% of total membership		Budget YTD	\$ 7,884.00
2021 YTD	\$ 46,215.00	3/16/22	23	2021 YTD	\$ 8,868.00
<b>Weekly needs March Operating Offering</b>					<b>\$ 3,845.00</b>
<b>Monthly Mortgage Payment</b>					<b>\$ 2,867.00</b>