

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Blessed Communion

Holy Thursday

April 6, 2023



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

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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**

We often think of the word communion as a synonym for the Lord’s Supper. “I took communion” means “I received the Lord’s Supper.” Yet, the Latin word *communio* means “community” or “association” or “sharing.” (In the creed, we speak of “the communion of saints.”) When people come together and share their lives with one another, the result is blessing—a blessed communion. And when God comes to us and shares himself with us, the result is eternal life. But is that really possible? How can a holy God associate with people who sin every day? In a miraculous meal, God lets us share in his own flesh and blood, the very blood that was shed to atone for our sin. We celebrate this feast for the forgiveness of sins and restored unity with our Father—a blessed communion with God. But there’s more! As we share this meal together, the Lord who loved us unites us in love for one another—a blessed communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Community is often celebrated with food. When people love one another, they enjoy gathering around the dinner table. On this Holy Thursday, Jesus invites us to his table. He serves us Supper. He serves us himself. And in doing so, Jesus creates a blessed communion.

## **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.

# Holy Thursday

## 417 It Was a Dark and Dismal Night

CW 417

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

## Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*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.**

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Exodus 24:1–11*

*Israel had promised to obey God's Law. They did not. So how were these lawbreakers able to commune with a holy God? They were sprinkled with the blood of the covenant.*

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, <sup>2</sup>but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

<sup>3</sup>When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." <sup>4</sup>Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup>Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other

half he splashed against the altar. <sup>7</sup>Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

<sup>8</sup>Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

<sup>9</sup>Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up <sup>10</sup>and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. <sup>11</sup>But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 116A I Will Lift Up the Cup of Salvation

Psalm 116A

### *Refrain*

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for / mercy.  
Because he turned his / ear to me,  
I will call on him as long / as I live.  
For you, LORD, have delivered / me from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from / stumbling,  
that I may walk be- / fore the LORD  
in the land of the / living. *Refrain*

What shall I return / to the LORD  
for all his good- / ness to me?  
I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation  
and call on the name / of the LORD.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23–28

*St. Paul maintains that every time we celebrate the sacrament we feast on the flesh and blood of God for the forgiveness of sins and restored unity with our Father.*

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup>In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup>So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

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

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 13:1



### Refrain



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

Having loved his own who were in the world,  
he loved them to the end.

### Refrain

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## Gospel

John 13:1–15,34

*Just as Christ loved us with service and sacrifice, so he commands us to love one another as part of a blessed communion.*

<sup>1</sup>It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup>The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup>When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup>"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

<sup>34</sup>"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

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

*Be seated*

## **659 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior**

CW 659

### **Sermon**

*By the Blood of the Covenant*

*Exodus 24:1–11*

*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**

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, now giving your own body and pouring out your own blood in Holy Communion. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God's promise to deliver them from death,  
**strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.**

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.  
**Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.**

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who are now ready to receive Holy Communion.  
**Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.**

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect.  
**Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.**

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.  
**Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb. Amen.**

## **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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. 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

## 665 What Is This bread?

CW 665

*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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.**

## The Dismissal

For many years, it has been the custom at Prince of Peace to sing the following Messianic Psalm at the close of the Maundy Thursday service. Jesus faced his arrest, conviction and crucifixion with confident hope and joy! His focus was on doing the will of his Father and the glory that awaited him at the right hand of God! We encourage you to join in singing this song in your homes.

The choir will introduce the refrain and sing the verses. The congregation will sing the following refrains once the choir has introduced the song. The congregation will be ushered out as the song is sung. Verses will be repeated until the last person is out. The congregation may continue to sing from the narthex area after it has been dismissed.

### **Refrain:**

PSALM 16: KEEP ME SAFE, O GOD

John Foley, S.J.



Keep me safe, O God: you are my  
hope; you are my hope, O God.

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1. I say to God, “you are my only God, I have no good except in you.” **Refrain**
2. I find in God always my cup of joy; and God will keep my life secure. **Refrain**
3. I bless my God: God who has counseled me. At night my heart gives counsel too.  
**Refrain**
4. I keep my God always before my eyes; with God beside me I’m secure. **Refrain**
5. And so my heart always is glad in God; my body too shall dwell secure. **Refrain**
6. For you will not ever abandon me, or let your servant lost the path. **Refrain**
7. The path of life you have revealed to me, and in your presence is my joy. **Refrain**

# Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## HOLY WEEK

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>FRIDAY</b> | 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel<br>6:30 pm Good Friday Worship                       |
| <b>SUNDAY</b> | 8:00 am Easter Worship<br>9:00 am Easter Breakfast<br>9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt<br>10:30 am Easter Worship |