

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



He Lives to Give Me Proof and Peace

Easter 2

April 16, 2023



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

Prince of Peace  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3703 River Watch Pkwy  
Martinez, GA 30907

princeofpeacemartinez.com  
facebook.com/princeofpeacemartinez  
instagram.com/princeofpeace\_martinez

Pastor Jonathan Neumann  
706-860-1600 (Church Office)  
719-367-1636 (Cell)  
pastorjonathanneumann@gmail.com

Preschool Director: Jeanne Thomas  
706-860-1655 (Preschool)  
[princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com](mailto:princeofpeacepreschoolga@gmail.com)

## **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**

Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Yet, even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, who all saw the resurrected Jesus, Thomas had doubts: "Rising from the dead. That can't be possible!" Today is a day of great comfort for any follower of Jesus who wrestles with doubt concerning Christ’s promises or doubts about God’s Word. Jesus does not come to rebuke Thomas’ weak faith. Jesus comes to strengthen Thomas’ faith, giving him proof of the mind-bending reality of the resurrection—to let him feel it, touch it, explore it. Jesus didn’t reject Thomas. Jesus engaged Thomas and gave him peace. Still today, Jesus comes to his disciples in Word and sacrament. The living Lord speaks to us. He lets us partake of his true body and blood. When we show weakness of faith, he does not reject us. Just as he did with Thomas, Jesus engages us, giving us proof and peace.

## **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.

## 445 He's Risen, He's Risen

CW 445

*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,



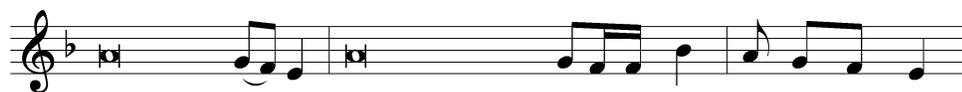
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Acts 2:14a,22–32

*The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so that they might testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Through their testimony, God gives his Church proof and peace.*

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

<sup>22</sup>“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup>This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup>David said about him:

“ I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

you will not let your holy one see decay.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup>But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Seeing

what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

*Psalm 16*

<sup>1</sup> Keep me safe, my God,  
for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;  
apart from you I have no good thing."

<sup>3</sup> I say of the holy people who are in the land,  
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."

<sup>4</sup> Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.  
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods  
or take up their names on my lips.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.

<sup>6</sup> The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely I have a delightful inheritance.

<sup>7</sup> I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> I keep my eyes always on the LORD.  
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure,

<sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

<sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3–9

St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have regardless of the outward circumstances of our life.

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29



*Refrain*



Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed.

*Refrain*

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708875

*Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas, peace that could only be found in his Lord and God.*

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## **456 O Sons and Daughters of the King**

CW 456

**Sermon**

Praise be to God

1 Peter 1:3–9

*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**

### **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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. 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

CW 511

*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 thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.**

## 800 How Firm a Foundation

CW 800

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>MONDAY</b>	Pastor @ Circuit Meeting in Summerville, SC
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 6:00 pm Bible Class
<b>THURSDAY</b>	5:00 pm Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 am Worship

## FLOWERS



Chris and Vanessa Deines are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They purchased the chancel flowers today to give thanks to God for the blessings they have enjoyed all these years. We join them to give thanks to God for guiding them each day with God's grace and goodness. We thank God for guiding them to build their home on Jesus Christ and to live each day as his redeemed children. May God continue to bless this couple and fill their lives with joy as they continue to serve one another out of reverence for Christ who served them first!

## LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

If you would like a LARGE PRINT bulletin, including the hymns, please speak with Pastor, Ann or Terry Wendt.

Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
4/6, 4/7, & 4/9/23	\$ 6,099.00	4/6/23	32	4/6, 4/7, & 4/9/23	\$ 1,315.00
Month to Date	\$ 8,989.00	4/7/23	39	Month to Date	\$ 3,845.00
YTD	\$ 62,895.00			YTD	\$ 13,785.00
Budget YTD	\$ 55,888.00			Budget YTD	\$ 9,748.00
2022 YTD	\$ 55,790.00	4/9/23	119	2022 YTD	\$ 11,855.00

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

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