



## **“Expanding the Table – Initiators and Verifiers”**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

### **April 25, 2021**

#### **WELCOME**

*Thank you for worshipping with today!*

*If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/worship/>.*

*If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, or online. Thank you for your generosity.*

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#### **ORDER OF SERVICE    *The assembly speaks the bold verses***

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#### **Preparing for Worship**

Begin worship with a moment of silence.

Take this time to set up your worship space. Your space will be unique to who you are and what is meaningful to you. Ultimately, you are preparing space that helps you slow down and connect with God through Jesus.

You are invited to light a candle. We light candles in worship to signify the presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, with us.

Take a few deep breaths. Breathe in the breath of God through the Holy Spirit.

**Opening Prayer****Table Blessing - Jan Richardson**

To your table  
you bid us come.  
You have set the places,  
you have poured the wine,  
and there is always room,  
you say,  
for one more.  
And so we come.  
From the streets  
and from the alleys  
we come.  
From the deserts  
and from the hills  
we come.  
From the ravages of poverty  
and from the palaces of privilege  
we come.  
Running,  
limping,  
carried,  
we come.  
We are bloodied with our wars,  
we are wearied with our wounds,  
we carry our dead within us,  
and we reckon with their ghosts.  
We hold the seeds of healing,  
we dream of a new creation,  
we know the things  
that make for peace,  
and we struggle to give them wings.  
And yet, to your table  
we come.  
Hungering for your bread,  
we come;  
thirsting for your wine,  
we come;  
singing your song  
in every language,  
speaking your name  
in every tongue,  
in conflict and in communion,  
in discord and in desire,  
we come,  
O God of Wisdom,  
we come

**Music "All Belong Here"**

**Lyrics by Lenora Rand; Music by Hannah Rand, sung by "The Many"**

*Verse 1:*

When you're not sure who you really are  
When all you feel is the shape of your scars  
And you have more wounds than you can count  
Open your eyes, look all around  
You aren't alone, this is your home

*Chorus:*

Come and remember who you are here  
Do this to remember who I am  
Come and remember you belong here  
All belong here.

*Verse 2:*

When you don't know how to forgive  
When locked doors seem like the only way to live  
And you've got more questions than you can count  
Open your eyes, look all around  
You aren't alone, this is your home

*Chorus*

*Bridge:*

At this table come as you are  
Broken and bleeding's ok  
At this table eat and be filled  
Come and drink in this grace.

*Chorus*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
Who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for individual confession and self-reflection.*

O God, You who are always doing a new thing,  
we confess that we sometimes close windows  
against the fresh air of new ideas,  
against the noise of other people's worries,  
against the winds of change.

God of every place and time,  
we confess that we often draw the curtains  
against people who are different,  
against world news or community concerns.

Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes,  
our shuttered churches,  
the security systems on our hearts.  
Open up our lives,  
and let your Spirit blow through. **Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ✠ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **Greeting**

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Fulfillment of the prophecies,  
With Scripture and water you claim people as your own. Claim us with water and the word, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Music**        ***“Something Beautiful For God” - Bryan Sirchio***

Know this one thing above all else  
We are loved, loved by God  
Let this be how we see ourselves  
As people loved, loved by God  
And once we know the love of Christ  
Feel God’s healing in our lives  
Loving service is how we give our love back to God

#### *Chorus:*

Today let us do something beautiful for God  
Do something small, but do it with great love  
Do what we can, where we are, with what we’ve got  
Today let us do something beautiful for God

Everyone who we meet today  
Is God’s child, God’s own child  
May our lives help them hear God say  
You are my child, God’s own child  
A smile can radiate God’s love  
Let them see the Christ in us  
Let our lives be the cheerfulness of God in this world

#### *Chorus*

Jesus will visit us today  
In disguise, in disguise  
Poor and weak, Christ will come our way  
Jesus Christ, in disguise  
The lonely, poor, the victimized  
Love for them is love for Christ  
Love is water to quench the thirst of Christ on the cross  
*Chorus*

**Gospel Reading    *Acts 8:26-39***

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

**Message**

*Pastor Andrea Fluegel*

**Music    *"Quiet Place" - The Many***

In this quiet place (2x)  
Help me be still and know  
How I can give and how to forgive.

In this quiet place (2x)  
Help me be still and know you.

### **Prayers of the People**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

By your Word, eternal God, your creation sprang forth, and we were given the breath of life. By your word, eternal God, death is overcome, Christ is raised from the tomb, and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit. May we boldly proclaim this good news in our words and our deeds, rejoicing always in your powerful presence. O God, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your name. O God, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

### **In this quiet place (2x)**

**Help me be still and know you.**

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit so that we seek to live in unity with all people, breaking down the walls that divide, ending the hostility among us, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away. O God, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

Shepherding God, look with mercy on those whose diminished capacity to care for themselves now requires the care of others. Assure them of their enduring value. May they be cared for with dignity and peace wherever they call home. May those who love them see in them the wonder of your creation, affirming their worth as your children, in gratitude for all they have been and are. O God, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to us, your children, an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, in our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us once more to enjoy health and strength and peace. We give to you all of our worries and pain. We pray for all the people, places and circumstances in our hearts and minds . . . O God, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

### **In this quiet place (2x)**

**Help me be still and know you.**

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. Open our minds to understand the scriptures. Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the word of life. Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action. O God, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation gathered before your throne in your ceaseless praise. O God, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**In this quiet place (2x)  
Help me be still and know  
How to be true in all I do.**

**In this quiet place (2x)  
Help me be still and know you.**

**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.**

**Music      *"We'll Be The Hands, We'll Be The Feet"***

Open our hearts, open our minds  
Let us join together as we have been designed  
Let us grow more deeply into You  
Let us spread Your light and keep it shining through

*Pre-chorus:*

Each one of us, all around the earth  
As a part of the Body, has our worth

*Chorus:*

We'll be the hands, we'll be the feet  
We'll circulate through the heart, where we all meet  
Built up in love, and joined as one  
Grown into Christ, we'll see Your work through till it's done

We will be strong, we'll live without fear  
Emboldened by Your love, we will persevere  
We will stand for truth, in justice we'll rejoice  
We will speak the Word for those who have no voice  
*Pre-chorus, Chorus*

Help us to seek that we might find  
Your compassion and grace for all humankind  
Help us connect as one community  
Abiding in Your loving unity  
*Pre-chorus, Chorus*

### **Blessing**

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,  
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,  
strengthened by the Spirit,  
and filled with all the fullness of God. **Amen.**

### **Sending**

Gathered by Grace.

Sent to Serve.

**Thanks be to God!**

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Confession and Forgiveness written by Teri on the "RevGalBlogPals A Place for Prayer blog," <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>, March 14, 2021 accessed through the Re:worship website.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Effective Sunday, April 25, Prince of Peace will move to Phase 3 of the POP Re-Opening Guidelines.** This means that in-person worship will increase to a 50-person limit. Masks, social distancing and pre-registration will still be required. Sanctuary doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship. Online worship will still be available. POP small groups of ten or less can meet in the building with masks and social distancing. Contact the church office to schedule your team or small group. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Andrea Fluegel or a Council member.

**Effective Tuesday, April 27, the Prince of Peace building and church office will be open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 12 Noon.** If you need access at another time, please contact the church office. Masks and social distancing will still be required.

We have recently changed our phone service provider allowing us to more effectively serve you. ***Our phone number remains 715-479-9263.*** When you call, you will be connected to an automated system that will help to direct your call (this is not our voicemail). It will read a message informing you that you have reached Prince of Peace, followed by any emergency announcements. A list of menu options will then be read. You can press the corresponding number at any time to be connected. Below is a list of the current menu options available for your reference. If you have any questions, feel free to give contact the church office.

- Opt 1 - Worship Information - A recording of the current worship times
- Opt 2 - Voicemail - Leave a message for the church staff
- Opt 3 - Church Staff - Ring all staff phones
- Opt 4 - Pastor - Ring Pastor phone
- Opt 5 - Gathered and Sent Podcast - Listen to the most recent podcast
- Opt 6 - Council President - Transfer to Council President
- Opt 7 - Church Treasurer - Leave a message for the Treasurer
- Opt 8 - Technical Support - Transfer to technical support
- Opt 0 - Repeat the Menu

**Counters are needed** to count and deposit the weekly offering on Sundays following worship or during the week if needed. It takes approximately an hour or less to count depending on the Sunday. New counters will be paired with an experienced counter. You will need to count only once per month as it fits into your schedule. If interested or if you have questions, please contact **Eric Brunner** at 715-891-8412 or brunners@nnex.net. Thank you for your service to the ministry of Jesus.

### **Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly**

The 2021 Synod Assembly is entirely virtual this year! From registration and payment to workshops and the business meeting, they look forward to seeing you online May 10-15, 2021. Visitors are welcome at all Synod Assembly events. You do not need to register, and links to participate in workshops and observe the business meeting will be available on their website (nglsynod.org).



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.  
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,  
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 5030 Highway 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521  
[www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org](http://www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org)