



“Expanding the Table – Gospel Liberty”
5th Sunday of Easter
May 2, 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

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 *“There’s A Love that Seeks Us”*

There’s a love that seeks us,
love that will not leave us,
knows our deepest longing,
drives away our fear.

There’s a God who holds us,
lovingly enfolds us;
we will lack for nothing,
trusting he is near.

*Our God, you’re wonderful,
your love will never fail,
your goodness follows us through all our days.
Our God, you’re wonderful
your love forever will be with us.*

There’s a love that guides us,
walks the road beside us,
comforting, providing,
showing us the way.
Love will light the darkness,
where the valley’s deepest,
lead us through the shadows
to a resting place.

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

Lord of all,

In Jesus you have made us all sisters and brothers in Christ. There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew. There is no separation that can remove any from fellowship in Christ's community. Blind us to our differences so that in unity we may proclaim your truth to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ in whom there is harmony and peace. **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

Gospel Reading *Acts 15:1-18*

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ²And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. ⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” ¹²The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³After they finished speaking, James replied, “My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, ¹⁶‘After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, ¹⁷so that all other peoples may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸known from long ago.’

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.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

As you have promised to hear the cries of all the needy, listen now to the countless people around the world who are suffering from sickness, from the coronavirus, from injustice, from abuse, from starvation. Hear our pleas for India. We pray especially for all the people, places and circumstances that are on our hearts and minds . . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 "Imago Dei" – Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Refrain:

Imago Dei the image of God is here
Imago Dei the likeness of God alive (repeat)

Holy because we are of God
We are all of God
Holy because we are of God
We are all of God
Refrain

Siblings because we are of God
We are all of God
Siblings because we are of God
We are all of God
Refrain

Descant

We belong to one another
We belong
Imago Dei the image of God is here
Imago Dei the likeness of God alive

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prince of Peace has moved to Phase 3 of the POP Re-Opening Guidelines. This means that in-person worship has increased to a 50-person limit. Masks, social distancing and pre-registration are still 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's 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

Grief Support Group

An informal time to gather with Pastor Andrea and individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Whether your loved one died last week, last month, or ten years ago, or maybe you are grieving a loved one struggling with memory loss, you are invited to share stories of your loved one, your struggles, and places where you find hope.

The next gathering will be on ***Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2 p.m.*** at Prince of Peace, either in the Fellowship Hall or outside (weather permitting).

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, **May 10-15, 2021**, is entirely virtual this year. Visitors are welcome at all Synod Assembly events. You do not need to register, it's free, and links to participate in workshops and observe the business meeting will be available on the Synod website (nglsynod.org).

NGL Synod Assembly Schedule

Sunday, May 9-Saturday, May 15

Daily Prayfaithfully Video Devotionals at nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully/daily-devotions

Monday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Worship

Tuesday, May 11 – Thursday, May 13

Online Workshops on the following topics:

Bias in Rural America

Planning Effective Worship in a Digital Age

A Conversation with our Anishinaabe Neighbors

Year of Discovery Q & A

Evolving with Technology

Holistic Health for Holistic Healing

Ruining John 3:16 So That You Will Have Life

Faithful Innovations

Thursday, May 13 at 6pm

Worship with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

You can find these opportunities and more information online at www.nglsynod.org/assembly,

Facebook: facebook.com/NorthernGreatLakesSynod

YouTube: [Northern Great Lakes Synod](https://www.youtube.com/NorthernGreatLakesSynod)

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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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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.*

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