

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“Gathered by Grace - Sent to Serve”

9th Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2020

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us 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/podcasts/>. DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are available by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.

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, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

WELCOME

This is God's house, and so as we gather for worship
I greet you on behalf of the master of this house, its builder;
and the master of this house, its heir;
and the master of this house, the Spirit that fills it and warms its chambers.
In this house there are many rooms so that you –
whether you're standing on the porch this morning, looking in,
or standing in the kitchen, getting ready to bring bread and wine to the table –
might find a place you can call home.
Let the people say Amen!
Amen!

LIGHTING OUR CANDLES

Remembering that Jesus Christ is always present with us through the Holy Spirit, we light our candles.

Silence for Individual Prayer and Reflection

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Just as God's work of creation never ends,
so the gifts we receive in baptism are renewed every day.
Let's give thanks together for the life given us in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, water to drink,
for waters to play in and waters of beauty,
for water that inspires wonder, and water that gives life to our planet.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place:
for water from our tap, for rain and snow,
for the Great Lakes, the Wisconsin River, the Chain, our many lakes and streams.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water:
for delivering Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom,
for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,
for healing your servant Naaman from his leprosy,
for guiding your people across the river Jordan into new beginnings,
for quenching the thirst of the Samaritan woman with living water.

We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized:
for all who gather here,
for our godparents and baptismal sponsors,
for children and grandchildren, and those whose baptismal promises we hold,
for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit:
for our entry into Christ's death through these waters,
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,
for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

We give you thanks, Holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly/yourself/your family may be showered (sprinkled) with water.

HYMN

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

#606

**Our Father, we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling,
we hear you call our name.**

**And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.**

**O Lord of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.**

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006. Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy* © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

DAILY EXAMEN – MY THOUGHTS, WORDS AND DEEDS

Saint Ignatius believed that it is important to be aware of the grace that you are seeking – that is the spiritual gift that you need or want at this moment. For example, if you were hurt by something someone said to you, you might pray for patience or peace. Or if you were tempted toward something particular, you might pray for grace of fortitude, strength, or boldness.

1. Become aware of God’s presence.

Begin by asking God for the grace that you are seeking today. Ask God to make Jesus’ presence known. Sense God’s presence around you and in you.

2. Review the day with gratitude.

Spend a few moments in gratitude, thanking God for blessings big and small.

3. Pay attention to your emotions.

Ask God to show you your greatest challenge that you faced today or this week. How did you meet that challenge? Did you respond in spiritual freedom or unfreedom? What were the consequences of your thoughts, feelings, words, and actions? Give thanks. Ask for forgiveness. Ask for healing.

4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.

Ask God to show you the grace you need to meet this challenge. Ask God to show you what ways you are not being open to this grace or spiritual gift. Ask God for forgiveness and strength to be open to this gift from this moment forward.

5. Look toward tomorrow.

Ask God to give you the grace you need to be the person Jesus is calling you to be. Repeat the name of this grace (or spiritual gift) over and over again. Try to sense God quietly filling you with this grace. Praise God for the graces or spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given you. Listen for God’s voice through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

#779
(vs. 1-3)

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-26

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

MESSAGE

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, in reaffirmation of our baptism, I'm going to ask you to say "no" to the things that hurt you and others, and to say "yes" to God. Some of our words will be short and simple, and some will be long and complicated, but all will tell the story of God's love for you and for the whole world.

Do you say "no" to hate, "no" to violence, "no" to greed, and "no" to everything else that is the opposite of God's peace, mercy, justice, and love?

I say no to them.

Do you say “no” to rules, “no” to habits, “no” to traditions, “no” to prejudices that go against God’s hopes and dreams for the world?

I say no to them.

Do you say “no” to the things you do but shouldn’t, “no” to the temptation to do nothing when action is needed, “no” to everything that pulls you away from God?

I say no to them.

I ask you now to say “yes” to God with the words used by Christians at their baptism since the very earliest days of the church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Share the sign of Christ’s peace with someone next to you, or by texting, calling or sending someone a note today.

OFFERING

RESPONSIVE ACTION/SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

During his busy ministry, Jesus went off alone to renew and refresh his spirit. “In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed” (Mark 1:35). He would then return to the crowds awaiting his teaching and healing.

And so it is for us today. The practice of solitude will not necessarily lead you into isolation, but rather, may allow you to approach the world with a solitude of heart, an inner attitude that frees you from looking to others to make you whole, to take away your loneliness, or to tell you who you are. With a solitary heart you will be able to interact more authentically and bring your whole self to your family and your community.

Practicing moments of solitude in your car, on a walk, or on your front porch, you may have been silent, listening to the sounds around you and the thoughts and feelings within. While practicing the watching, waiting, and listening of silence, you may have been alone or somewhat apart from others.

The Desert Fathers and Mothers of the third- and fourth-century Christianity can be our guides for this practice. For these early hermits, the desert was a barren place. They were alone, with no place to hide and no one to blame; there was no room for lying or deceit. The Desert Fathers and Mothers could only face up to themselves – their temptations, their attachments, their deepest desires, and their own deaths. This brutally honest accounting smashed old beliefs and old ways of seeing – everything they knew and thought was true.

Many of the stories from this period tell of the abundance of tears shed in the desert. The hermits understood their tears to signify a softening of the soul, clarity of the mind, and an opening to new life. Tears confirmed their readiness to allow their hearts to be broken and their lives to come apart, so as to be free to be reborn into a world of healing. When have you been in the desert? What were the terrors, and what were the gifts? How did you experience God during this time? How did you hear the voice of God?

(from “Fully Awake and Truly Alive” by Rev. Jane E. Vennard, pages 59-61).

HYMN

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

#596
(vs. 1 & 2)

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life that nourishes and sustains us.
Since we today cannot gather to share the bread and cup,
dwell in our hearts
and reveal to us again that we are the body of Christ:
in our vulnerable flesh,
through our baptism into your death and resurrection,

and in service to the world you love.
Be for us manna in the wilderness.
Open our eyes to see you present in every meal
and in all who hunger for bread,
for human touch,
and for healing and hope.

Help us to remember
Your presence is the living impulse in all things,
the Christ deep among us,
filling Earth—land, sea, and air;
filling every element and place;
filling the grain and the grape we share as your children.

On the night of his betrayal and arrest,
Jesus taught us how to serve one another in love
with a ritual of table fellowship,
scandalous in its welcome of all people.
On that night, he took bread,
gave thanks and broke it,
giving it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray in your name, our healer and companion. **Amen.**

*Communion will be distributed to household unit by scheduled times through the church website
or by contacting the church office.*

THE 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 God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

You have heard the story. Go in peace to tell and live it.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Announcements

* Help our local health departments plan for the 2020-2021 Flu Season during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take a brief moment to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S5XXTMG>. Those living in *Oneida, Vilas, Forest and Lincoln Counties* can participate in this survey. Medical professionals are trying to get as many people as they can to get the flu vaccine this year. There are only 3 or 4 short questions, depending on how you answer.

* We are offering outside communion under the portico. The portico will protect us from the elements so that we can still have communion if it rains. Note that this is not “drive up” communion. You will need to park your car near the portico and then walk to it. Communion will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call the church office and leave a voicemail message with the day and time you prefer. We will contact you.

* DVD’s of the previous Sunday’s worship are now available at POP! Please contact the church office via telephone (715-479-9263) if you would like one.

* Lawn care is ***still needed*** this summer even though there is no public worship. Please call 715-479-9263 to sign up. Thank you to those who have signed up to help.

* Thank you so much for thinking about the Northland Pines School District students and families. There will be a green tote outside the main doors of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (*under the portico*) for food drop-off from ***10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*** on ***Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays***. Please do not drop off expired food or items past their sell-by dates. We are unable to use them.

* We would appreciate your support of the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship and other ministries. You can give any amount by mailing a check to us at P.O. Box 535, Eagle River, WI 54521.

CURRENT PHASE: 1

- Fully digital worship and fellowship
- Individually scheduled communion under portico available
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



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.*