



**“Grace-Filled Way of Life – Rooted and Grounded in Love”
10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 1, 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.

“Even when we were dead, Paul writes.
Even when we turned away from the One who had created us.
Even when we lived in the grip of what drew our gaze from God.
Even when we were oblivious.
Even when we followed a path fashioned of nothing
but our own desires.
Even when we wandered far and willfully away.
Even when we forgot to look past our own feet and to see
the wonders not of our making.
Even when we failed to stand in awe, to breathe thanks,
to lean into the love that had waited long for us.
Even when, Paul writes.
Even when,
even then:
grace.”

A Summer Prayer for Grace

God of gentle rains and warm sun, God who encourages growth;
**we are creatures who sometimes grow quickly,
and sometimes get stuck.**
God of freedom, of liberation, of binding ropes being cut;
we are bound in ways we don't always understand or recognize.
God of exodus and exile and homecoming,
God who calls us to leave where we are and come home;
**help us to have the courage to make the journey
and to trust in the path.**
God of health and healing,
God who wants us to be made whole;
**we come as people who are wounded in body and in spirit,
people who seek healing.**
God who has laid out a way for us to live,
who has given us rules for living in community;
**we come as people who sometimes go astray,
people who stretch the rules.**

God of Grace,
we come as people who live through that Grace.
**And so we praise you for the growth,
we rejoice in being set free,
we dance along the path that leads us home,
we give thanks for the healing we have received,
we relax in the knowledge that we are forgiven
and we live as people of Grace. 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

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin
to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for individual confession and self-reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **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

We bow our hearts before You, Gracious God. You are the Creator of everything we see in heaven and on earth. We pray that out of Your glorious, unlimited resources, You would strengthen our hearts and minds through the power of Your Holy Spirit. May Your love be the rich soil in which our lives are rooted. May Your love be the firm foundation on which we build, so that, together with all Your people everywhere, we would come to truly understand how long, how high, how wide and how deep Your love really is—how it far surpasses anything we can imagine. God, fill us with the fullness and the power that comes from You alone, so that our lives would reflect your goodness and grace to the world around us. **Amen.**

Music **“God’s Love Will Hold Us” - Bryan Sirchio**

No matter what tomorrow brings
God’s love will hold us.
When it’s all been said and done,
And the time has finally come
To accept the thing that’s hardest to accept,
When the table has been cleared
But the sadness and the fear
Get so heavy that it’s easy to forget.

Chorus:

No matter what tomorrow brings,
God’s love will hold us.
No matter what tomorrow brings,
God’s love will hold us.

When the time is drawing near
To confront the things we fear;
Yet our certainty and courage start to fade,
If somehow we feel betrayed,
And we’re anxious and afraid,
And we’re praying,
“Does it have to be this way?”

Chorus

When our strength is all but gone,
And we’re barely holding on,
Let’s remember God is holding on to us.
We’ll be given what we need
To endure the pain and grief
Even when our doubts
feel stronger than our trust.

Chorus

Reading ***Ephesians 3:1-21***

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. ¹³ I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Message

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Music "Here in This Place" - Christopher Grundy

HOLY ONE, may your presence here open our minds,
may your Spirit among us help us to find
you are rising up now like a fountain of grace
from the holy ground
here in this place,
here in this place.

Descant:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty
the whole universe speaks of your glory
from the holy ground
here in this place,
here in this place.

Prayers of the People

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations across various denominations. Strengthen our ecumenical partnerships. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

**HOLY ONE, may your presence here open our minds,
may your Spirit among us help us to find
you are rising up now like a fountain of grace
from the holy ground
here in this place,
here in this place.**

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing. Tend to those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. We give to you, O gracious Lord, all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds that we now name silent or aloud . . . Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

Give to your church, O God, the power to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, that your power at work within us may accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine. Help us to follow the love of Christ, a love which urges us on. Help us to seek and serve Christ in others, bringing forth a new creation. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

**HOLY ONE, may your presence here open our minds,
may your Spirit among us help us to find
you are rising up now like a fountain of grace
from the holy ground
here in this place,
here in this place.**

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

Music "I Will Sing of Your Love, Love, Love" - Christopher Grundy

(Psalm 89:1, Psalm 104:33, Matthew 19:14)

I will sing of your love, love, love
of your steadfast love
for as long as I live
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live.

I will sing of a love so wide
that it welcomes the neighbor
and will not divide
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live.

I will sing, "Let the children come.
Do not hinder them,"
for you love every one,
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live.

I will sing of the trees so tall
of the oceans so deep
and your love for them all
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live.

Descant:

Your love is stronger than the mountains
soaks through me like the pouring rain.
It's no wonder that I'm answering your call.
Whenever someone needs a neighbor
and wherever there's a child in pain
we'll be working on a just world for all.

Blessing

God, who created you in the divine image, sends you forth:
**we go, to reflect the presence of our Creator
to everyone we meet.**

Jesus, who has redeemed you,
has established the reign of God in our midst:
we go, to bring healing to the broken of the world.

The Holy Spirit, who calls you to be God's people,
goes with you to many places:
**we go, to tear down the walls that divide us,
and to build lives of hope for all of God's children.**

And now, may the peace of the rolling waves,
the peace of the silent mountains,
the peace of the singing stars,
and the deep, deep peace of the Prince of Peace,
be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending

Gathered by Grace.
Sent to Serve.
Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming NGL Synod - Lifelong Faith Formation

The Fall semester of Lifelong Faith Formation will be starting soon. Here is a preview of the upcoming schedule:

- *Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why*
- *Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania*
- *Biblical Greek or Hebrew*
- *The Book of Ezekiel*
- *An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking (one session)*
- *Book study of Friedman's Fables*
- *An ongoing Bible study*

Please contact Deacon Lori Ward to receive the class schedule as soon as it is announced or if you have any questions (lori.ward@nglsynod.org or 615-519-1969).

Home Communion and Visits

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home (indoor or outside), or have the pastor or someone from the congregation come to visit with you, please contact Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715.479.9263 or at pastor@princeofpeace-er.org to schedule a time.

Living Well with Chronic Conditions

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will once again present the Living Well workshop starting on Wednesday, September 1, and running through Wednesday, October 6. Class is from 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon and is an online virtual workshop. Living well is focused on teaching you the skills to better manage your health and well-being. Suggested donation is \$20 and includes the Healthy Living book. Please call the ADRC at 715-479-3625 to register.

Bible Study On-The-Go

Did you know that Prince of Peace has an on-demand Bible study each week? You can access the Gathered and Sent podcast on the upcoming Sunday's scripture. Pastor Andrea and a member of the congregation (and sometimes special guests) discuss scripture and its relevance in our lives. This podcast will prepare you for Sunday morning worship and help to grow your faith life. Currently, we are in a six-week series on the Holy Spirit. You can access it on your favorite podcast platform such as Spotify, Apple Play, Siri, Audible, Pandora, etc.; on the church website; or by calling the church office at 715.479.9263 - Option 5.

New: Prayer Requests on POP Website

If you have a prayer request, you can now go to <https://princeofpeace-er.org/prayers/> to fill out a form, or you can go there to pray for the requests already posted. If you post a request, you have the opportunity to remain anonymous.

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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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