



“Grace-Filled Way – Armor of God”

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 2021

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 "There's A Love That Seeks Us" - Judy Gresham

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

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

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Music *"Taste Deeply This Delicious Life (Psalm 34)" - Richard Bruxvoort Colligan*

Refrain:

Taste deeply this delicious life
Taste deeply this delicious life
Delight yourself to trust how good God is
Taste deeply this delicious life

Verse 1:

Oh at all times there is praise in my mouth
I will bless God always
So let the suffering hear me and take joy
Come one, come all, and sing with me today: *Refrain*

Verse 2:

I turned to God and was rescued from my fears
Faces glow with light
This lowly one cried out and I was heard
And all my trials our Maker touched with life *Refrain*

Verse 3:

Oh at all times holy presence will surround
those who live in awe
No one who leans on God will have regret
for God keeps everyone who eats of love *Refrain*

READING *Ephesians 6:10-20*

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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.

God of courage, bless all disciples and ministers of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Protect first-responders and communities as they protect people and property from storms and wildfires. 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.**

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Bless our ministries and partnerships such as the Backpack Program, Caritas, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Wilderness Canoe Base, Fortune Lake Bible Camp, and Young Adults in Global Mission. 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.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

When we have no words to express what is on our hearts and minds, Holy Spirit, intercede for us. Jesus, into your healing hands and mercy, we place before you all the people, places, circumstances, and things of this world that keep us up at night. We now name them silently in our heart and aloud with our voices . . . Loving God, in your abundant grace, **hear our prayers.**

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. 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 ***"God of the Movements and Martyrs" - The Many***

Verse 1

God of the movements and martyrs
God of the powerless child
God of the hurt and the hopeless
And unreconciled God of the just and the faithful
God of the night and the day
God of the whole of creation
In your name we pray
Many have followed the savior
Into the face of the storm
Strengthened by long generations
By love they were formed
In basements of tall-steepled churches
In shadows of fences and walls
In alleys and hallways of power
They answered your call

Verse 2

Now it's our turn to do justice
Humbly we rise to the day
Give us the strength and the wisdom
To walk in your way
Gather the loaves and fishes,
Share until all have been fed
Walk in compassion and mercy
By love we'll be led
Standing in circles surrounding
All holding hands while we pray
When powers bear down on the helpless
We'll stand in the way
God of the worn and the wounded
Let us be healed by the truth
When doorways are blocked we will lower
Our friends through the roof

Verse 3

God of the circle that holds us
God of the ones pushed away
We will reach out to our neighbors
In your name we'll say:
No matter your creed or your country
No matter the hue of your skin
Your age, who you love, or the body
Your soul was born in
No matter the places you're broken
No matter the things you have done
Lay down that weight on the altar
A new day's begun
You are a child of the maker
You are beloved and known
Join us in work of the kin-dom
We welcome you home
Join us in work of the kin-dom
We welcome you home

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

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, August 18, at 2 p.m.** at Prince of Peace. We will meet outside, weather permitting.

Care & Share Card Volunteers Needed

Monthly volunteers are needed for the remaining months of the year to send cards to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are dealing with various issues. Please sign up for a spot on our website, and contact the church office if you have any questions. You will need to contact the church office to arrange for you to pick up the box of cards. The office will also provide stamps if you like. *Thank you for helping with this very important ministry!*

Marywood Book Study - *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brené Brown

This book study ([via Zoom](#)) will be facilitated by Pastor Andrea Fluegel of Prince of Peace and Pastor Grant Van Lishout of Marywood and will be held Sunday afternoons, **October 3 through 31, from 2 to 3:15 p.m.**

This study will actually change your outlook on life. Brown explores the psychology of releasing our definitions of an “imperfect” life and embracing living authentically. What transforms this book from words on a page to effective daily practices are the ten guideposts to wholehearted living. They not only help us understand the practices that will allow us to change our lives, they also walk us through the unattainable expectations that get in the way. Suggested offering: \$50 for five sessions. You will need to purchase your own book, currently \$6.96 on Amazon. Register through Marywood by Noon Monday, September 30.

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).

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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