



**“The End of All Things – Peace on Earth”
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 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.

We come from different places. Different countries. Different streets. Different homes.
Different families. Different histories.

We look around and don't see a single face exactly like our own.

We come wondering if anyone in the whole world can really understand us and know us and love us.

We come from having enough. And we come from scarcity.

We come from joy. And we come from grief.

We come from hope. And we come from hurt.

We come as "all of the above."

Depending on the day.

Depending on the hour.

We come by ourselves, longing, at least in some small way, for connection.

We come deeply aware of our essential aloneness and scared to let go of it.

Yet also, longing to be together.

Because, look . . . we're here. We're all here.

We are all here . . . in this place, right now, by the grace of God.

Music **"Only Grace" by The Many**

Things are broken here; things are shared.

Things are carried here, hearts bow in prayer.

Chorus:

It is grace, only grace

That brings us here,

Holds us together here.

It is grace, only grace

That brings us here,

Hold us all together here,

All together here.

Things are dying here; things are torn.

Things are growing here and burdens borne.

Chorus

Bridge

Amazing grace, hear the sound.

Here is where hope is found.

Chorus

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

You give to us Your heartbeat, Sheltering One, so that light and dark become the same and we will find wonder and life in You; that we might embark into this world to share a new story of Your people, gathered for the healing of the nations. In your name, Prince of Peace, Savior of the nations. **Amen.**

Music *“Open My Heart” by Ana Hernandez*

Open my heart . . . (*repeated many times*)

Confession

Please stand together as we confess our sin before God.

We confess that we would rather not stand together.

We confess that we would rather sit.

We prefer to sit because it’s comfortable. And because we’re tired.

And because we aren’t sure where to go, what to do.

And mostly we’re afraid of what standing might require of us.

Sometimes we sit in fear. Sometimes we sit in despair.

And mostly we sit alone.

We’d rather sit alone because “togetherness” is complicated. Loving is a messy, painful business - it’s hard enough to love people who are most like us,

But to love those who are unlike us, that seems impossible.

We sit alone, as if our lives depended on it.

We sit alone in our individual little corners of what we call comfort,

Missing out on truly living. We hold onto our lives and we lose them.

We sit in fear. We sit in despair.

We sit alone. And we know this is no way to live.

Assurance of Pardon

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, not powers, or height or depth, or anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We do not stand alone.

Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

A Prayer Attributed to Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. In Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

Music *“Instruments of Your Peace”*

(based on the Prayer of St. Francis)

Music & Lyrics by Sherri Hansen

God, make us instruments of Your peace.

Wherever there is hatred let us sow the seeds of love.

God, help us heal the hurt with Your grace.

Wherever there are doubting hearts, let us sow the seeds of faith.

God, make us instruments of your peace.
To those who are in despair let us be a beacon of hope.
God, where there's dark, let us shine Your light.
Wherever there is sadness let us bring to them Your joy.

O God, grant that we may give instead of take,
That daily we may die to ourselves.
That we console, when we are hurt, understand when we are wronged
And love, even when we are unloved.

O God, grant that we may give instead of take,
That daily we may die to ourselves.
For in giving we receive, in forgiving, are forgiven
And in dying we will live eternally

Reading from the Epistles *Romans 12:9, 14-15, 17-21 (The Message)*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Music **"Your Love is Here" by The Many**

I feel empty, I am worn out.
There is so much I cannot see.
But your love, they say, has open arms
And your grace is waiting for me.

Chorus (repeat twice):

Oh I want to rest in those strong arms,
Yes I want to trust in my heart of hearts
That your love, your love is here.

So I will sing, your love is here
And it's greater than our doubts.
Your love is greater than our fear.
Yes, I will sing, your love is here
and it sees our broken hearts.
Somehow it can heal.
Your love is here.

I am scared, I am scarred.
There's so much I cannot believe.
But your love, they say,
is like a river
Mercy will just wash over me.

Chorus (repeat twice)

So I will sing, your love is here
And it's greater than our doubts.
Your love is greater than our fear.
Yes, I will sing, your love is here
and it sees our broken hearts.
Somehow it can heal.
Your love is here.

We don't have to be strong.
We don't have to be sure.
We don't have to be right.
We don't have to see any blinding lights.
We can just be.

So I will sing, your love is here
And it's greater than our doubts.
Your love is greater than our fear.
Yes, I will sing, your love is here
and it sees our broken hearts.
Somehow it can heal.
Your love is here.

Reading *Revelation 6:1-8, 7:9-17*

Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures call out, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!" ² I looked, and there was a white horse! Its rider had a bow; a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering and to conquer.

³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature call out, "Come!" ⁴ And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another; and he was given a great sword.

⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature call out, "Come!" I looked, and there was a black horse! Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand, ⁶ and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's pay, and three quarts of barley for a day's pay, but do not damage the olive oil and the wine!"

⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature call out, "Come!" ⁸ I looked and there was a pale green horse! Its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed with him; they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, and pestilence, and by the wild animals of the earth.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Music *“By the Stream”* by Christopher Grundy

**Blessed are those who trust in God.
They will be like a tree planted by the water,
Planted by the water
and sending out its roots by the stream.**

Prayers of the People

From our homes and our assemblies, indoors and outside, we join together in prayer, responding to each petition with words, “We put our trust in you.”

Jesus, Lamb of God, Savior of the nations, together across the world we pray:
For the church around the world,
Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared,
Remind us of your call to not withdraw from the world, but to be in the world as your very own broken and beloved people,
Ignite in us a passion for the welfare of those who are most vulnerable, and empower us to lead with a love that reflects your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Savior.

A brief silence for individual petitions and prayers.

O supreme Savior, receive our prayer:

We put our trust in you.

For the earth that you created,
Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters,
Protect national, state and county parks, conservation land and trails, and wilderness areas so that all may experience your creation and call it good,
As with all of creation, we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation,

A brief silence for individual petitions and prayers.

O majestic Maker, receive our prayer:

We put our trust in you.

For the nations of the world,
For the people of Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq and Iran, New York, Washington, Boston, and Pennsylvania,
For wisdom in the deployment of our military and the protection of the men and women of our armed forces and UN peacekeepers and relief workers, and comfort those who have served and who have been deployed across the globe,
For our national and state legislators and local leaders as they consider the way forward,
With the wonderful diversity of language and cultures you created all people in your image, free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world.

A brief silence for individual petitions and prayers.

O peaceful Protector, receive our prayer:
We put our trust in you.

**Blessed are those who trust in God.
They will be like a tree planted by the water,
Planted by the water
and sending out its roots by the stream.**

For first responders, protect them and strengthen them to help meet the complex needs of others,
For fire fighters, when they must go into the face of danger, be by their side in the smoke and flames.
For police officers, guide them both in day and night and surround them with your care as they rush in where no one else dare trod,
For paramedics, nurses, doctors, therapists, and hospital workers, that through their hands and words of comfort others will come to know the healing of Jesus in their lives,

A brief silence for individual petitions and prayers.

O gracious Guardian, receive our prayer:
We put our trust in you.

For those who are in need,
For those grieving loved ones,
For those struggling with post-traumatic stress and compassion fatigue,
For those contracting the coronavirus, especially the children,
For those who this week will receive a disturbing diagnosis,
And for those whom we name here before you, . . .

A brief silence for individual petitions and prayers.

O holy Healer, receive our prayer:
We put our trust in you.

**Blessed are those who trust in God.
They will be like a tree planted by the water,
Planted by the water
and sending out its roots by the stream.**

For each one of us,
For our households,
For our communities,
For our ministry partners, such as Caritas, Vilas Food Pantry, Northland Pines School District,
and the organizations that are dear to our hearts,
O faithful Friend, receive our prayer:
We put our trust in you.

In thanksgiving for all who have died in the faith,
In gladness for the life of our loved ones,
And in hope for your mercy at the end of time,

A brief silence for individual petitions and prayers.

O ceaseless Comforter, receive our prayer:

We put our trust in you.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

Sharing of the Peace

When we gather together, we practice peace, for peace, after all takes practice.

Peace can be fleeting - hard to grasp, hard to hold - and yet, sometimes just a moment of peace is enough to quell the turbulence within us. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be Peacemakers. As we practice making peace within us and between us here, we build our skills to create and share peace in a world hungry for healing and hope.

You're invited today to help make moments of peace. We're using the same method that the early church used, exchanging the words "Peace be with you." Together, we can speak the gift of Peace into being.

We begin by steadying ourselves and breathing in the stillness of God's deep and abiding peace. Exhale fear, worry, trouble, doubt, and pain. Take a few moments to let the movement of your breath quiet your body and your spirit. When you are ready, turn to someone near you, or send a text message, email, or mailed note and offer the words "Peace be with you" as a blessing.

And now, let the peace of Christ be practiced here.

Music "God of the Movements and Martyrs" by 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

Benediction

As we go out from this place,
May we know, without a shadow
Of a doubt, that we are not alone.
And know that we are desperately loved by God.

In God's embrace,
Let us not cower in fear,
Let us stand with love.
Let us not huddle in judgment,
Let us stand with love.
Let us not sit in despair,
Let us stand with love.
Let us not walk away in anger,
But by the grace of God,
Let us stand with love.
In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sending

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Memorial Service at Prince of Peace:

Jim Van Haverbeke

Saturday – September 18, 2021

Visitation at 10 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

LWR Quilts

Let's begin a new year of LWR Quilt tying. No sewing skills are necessary! Please join us in the classroom on **Thursday, September 16**, between **9:30 and 11:30 a.m.** Come as you are – stay as long as you are able – even an hour of your time would be appreciated! Both men and women of all ages are encouraged to participate. We will meet the first and third Thursdays of every month. For more information, please contact Marlys Tipple at 715-337-2212.

Stepping On Fall Prevention Class

The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Vilas County (ADRC) will once again present their **Stepping On** fall prevention class on **Thursdays** from **September 30** through **November 11, 2021**, from **1 to 3 p.m.** at the Vilas County Courthouse in Eagle River. Cost is \$20 a donation which includes all materials. The class can help you avoid a dangerous and costly fall so you can keep doing the things you love to do! To register, contact the ADRC at 715-479-3625 or 800-374-1123.

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.

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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