

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“Gathered by Grace - Sent to Serve”

“With Glad Hearts” Second Sunday of Easter April 19, 2020

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Each week includes sharing food, so preparations include **making a meal or snack** to be ready at the time of gathering. Other items to gather are a **candle** and a “**worry stone**” with a heart painted or drawn on it for each person. You can also make or color a heart every time you hear the word “heart.”*

Silence for Individual Reflection and Prayer

SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

Easter is not just a day. It is a whole season of time when we remember that Jesus’ Spirit lives on in each one of us. In the Bible, the early church was described in this way:

*“Day by day, as they **spent much time together** in the temple, they **broke bread at home** and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God** and **having the goodwill** of all the people.” (Acts 2: 46-47a)*

So over the next few weeks, we are following our ancestor's traditions. We are creating a "temple" of worship in our hearts whether we can be physically together or not. By sharing in words and music and breathing and eating and moving together, we will stay connected. The earliest Christians worshiped in their homes before they had churches, and so will we, until we can meet again in our sanctuaries. Because at the "heart of the matter," we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

OPENING ACT OF CENTERING OUR HEARTS AS ONE

We are going to center our hearts as one to begin.
Let's take a deep breath together.

I invite you to place your hand on your heart and
let's lightly tap together in a slow heartbeat rhythm.

Holy Living God,
Heartbeat of Creation,
help us to take this time to center on you,
for you made us,
you gave us life,
and you continue to be with us
every moment...
every breath...
every step.

Hear this assurance from God:
Be still, O heart, you're not alone,
your beat is shared with me.
Come now, and calm, and center here,
you're mine, secure and free.

Let's take another deep breath, making sure our shoulders and any
tension we feel in our bodies is letting go with the breath.
Let's take another one.

Let us pick up our heart stone, sometimes called a "worry stone,"
and let our touch on its surface
remind us that God's touch is
within us, between us, and around us.
As close and real as this object is in our hands right now,
is how close Love is to us always.
Let us imagine letting go of our worries for now
into God's heart of love.

We offer a prayer song of letting go:
Into your care, we offer now,
our worries, fears and strife.
We turn to you and know you're near—
Your light, our love and life.

Let's light our candles now and set our heart worry stones next to it.

HYMN *“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”* **#384**
(vs. 1 & 4)

**That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!**

**All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise,
and God the Spirit, now we raise!**

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

BREAK BREAD

BLESSING THE MEAL (*prepare your meal or snack*)

Holy Peace-Giver,
Holy Peace-Giver

We gather in your name...

We gather in your name...

invited by Jesus...

invited by Jesus...

bound together with your Spirit...

bound together with your Spirit...

in union with each other...

in union with each other...

Feed our bodies and our spirits...

Feed our bodies and our spirits...

with your comforting presence...

with your comforting presence...

so that we might be your comfort to others...

so that we might be your comfort to others...

Bless this food...

Bless this food...

and break open our hearts...

and break open our hearts...

Bless this drink...

Bless this drink...

and pour out your love...

and pour out your love...

Amen...

Amen!

And now I invite you to pick something up on the table and let us say the one word that is at the heart of the matter in every blessing we do at our tables, repeating after me...

“Grateful!”

“Grateful!”

Let us begin to “break bread” while we “break open the Word” in our scriptures.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD WITH SCRIPTURE

Acts 2: 24-28

God raised him up! God freed him from death’s dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him.

David says about him,

I foresaw that the Lord was always with me;

because he is at my right hand I won’t be shaken.

Therefore, my heart was glad

and my tongue rejoiced.

Moreover, my body will live in hope,

because you won’t abandon me to the grave,

nor permit your holy one to experience decay.

You have shown me the paths of life;

your presence will fill me with happiness.

Psalms 16: 5-11

You, Lord, are my portion, my cup;

you control my destiny.

The property lines have fallen beautifully for me;

yes, I have a lovely home.

I will bless the Lord who advises me;

even at night I am instructed

in the depths of my mind.
I always put the Lord in front of me;
I will not stumble because God is on my right side.
That's why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous;
yes, my whole body will rest in safety
because you won't abandon my life to the grave;
you won't let your faithful follower see the pit.
You teach me the way of life.
In your presence is total celebration.
Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

GOSPEL READING

John 20:11-22

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

MEDITATION

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#631

(vs. 1 & 2)

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

ACTION RESPONSE

I invite you to lean over and whisper toward someone, “Peace be with you.” If you have several people around the table, let it go around like when we play “telephone,” passing it around to the next person when it gets to you. If you are alone, text someone right now that you want to share this with, or if you don’t usually use text, plan to call when this worship is over and tell someone, “Peace be with you.”

BREAKING OPEN OUR LIVES WITH DISCUSSION

Think about what sights, sounds, words, and actions, (nature, birds, taking a walk, for example) are things that act in your life as a “voice in your ear”

that says, “Peace be with you.”

When have you felt peace this week?

Or if you haven’t experienced much peace,

what do you have in your memory

as something that brings you peace?

Let’s take some time at our tables to talk about this question.

BREAKING OPEN OUR HEARTS WITH PRAYER

For those who have lost loved ones
For those who are sick and recovering
For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home
For those who are caring for persons in medical care
For those who are separated from loved ones
For those who are feeling alone and isolated
For those who are helping and are so very tired
For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort
For those who are afraid

Let us take another breath of Spirit as our “Amen.” We know that God sends out our prayers and the Spirit, Breath of God, is blowing from within us outward, as a Spirit of Compassion and Presence.

PRAISE GOD!

We know Jesus is present among us...

We know Jesus is present among us...

even in this very home...

even in this very home...

We will not let fear be louder than love...

We will not let fear be louder than love...

but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls...

but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls...

we will sing God’s praise...

we will sing God’s praise...

for we are Easter People...!

for we are Easter People...!

HYMN

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#886

(vs. 1 & 3)

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

HAVE GOODWILL

What message does the world need? Perhaps you will decide to create a way to let more and more people know the message of Christ, “You are not alone. I am here. Peace be with you.” What can we do to create more peace in our household, in our family, in our relationships with those we cannot be with right now? How can we offer peace to those who are working so hard right now? How can we offer peace to those who feel no peace or comfort? Make your own plan today.

BENEDICTION

(based on Psalm 16)

As we close this time together, remember:
God is always with you. No matter what you face,
no matter what trials or hardships come your way,
God is right beside you, whispering “Peace be with you,”
guiding and directing your path.
So do not live in fear, but in joy.
Take heart! This is the heart of the matter.
Amen.

POSTLUDE JAM

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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.*