



“Reversal and Restoration: Bearing Fruit”
2nd Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021

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/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.

Prayer of Stillness

On my knees I whisper
and the Creator hears me
I turn from the world and listen
to hear the still small voice
I seek to discern with prayer and stillness
the Lord's calling for my life
I find my strength in Christ's peace
and reach out to God.

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Music "When the Storms are Overwhelming" - Matt Osgood

When the storms are overwhelming,
when the sun is hidden by your tears,
when confusion reigns within you,
this invitation echoes down the years:

*Come all you weary,
come all you broken,
come with your wounds and with your scars.
Come and find healing,
forgiveness and freedom,
Jesus invites you as you are.
So come,
so come.*

When the fears of night surround you,
when the hope you had is torn apart;
in the depths of all your sorrow,
his invitation reaches to your heart:
He's calling the failures,
he's calling the least,
he's calling the losers,
he's calling the weak.

He waits to embrace you,
if you'll hear the call.
His invitation
is open to all.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

Silence 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 neighbor 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.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **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

Holy One of mighty power,

Your word is powerfully dangerous. Your word casts out demons. Your word heals incurable diseases. Your word devours empires. Your word transforms the fabric of the universe. Help us to stand in awe and fear of what your word is capable of doing. Give us courage to speak your word and wisdom to hear it, for the sake of the one whose very whisper can demolish sin, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Music *“Hidden With Christ”*

Chorus:

Hidden with Christ, hidden with Christ
All of us deep within God's heart
Hidden with Christ, hidden with Christ
All of us deep within God's heart

We are the witnesses of Gospel possibility
Loving the world, living in mystery
Chorus

Called from our wandering and claimed with our history
Voice of our home, whisper of mystery
Chorus

We are the carriers of hope for what the world can be
People of faith, bearing the mystery
Chorus

Gospel Reading *Luke 13:1-9, 31-35*

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Lament over Jerusalem

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Message

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Music *"Christ Within"* - Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Christ within, before and behind

Christ beneath, above, beside

Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

Prayers of the People

Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the church throughout the world, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship.

Grateful for a plenteous creation, we pray that you preserve the wild beasts and keep lands from being flooded by waters. Encourage the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators, that we all come to appreciate more about the wonders that you create.

Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. Surround them with a community of concern.

Christ within, before and behind

Christ beneath, above, beside

Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

Creator God, you made us all in your image. Help us to embrace one another as you do, beloved and blessed, not in need of fixing, but in need of authentic welcome. Bring healing where it is desired, affirmation where it is lacking, and awareness to all. Open our hearts to receive the gifts and needs of all people, and to become communities where everyone can find a place.

Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders who govern in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Visit the people of Myanmar and Sudan and stem the might of tyrants the world over.

Pained by the suffering of others, we pray for all who are sick, especially those we name here before you: . . . We pray for all who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are bowed down by trials of any kind, for those who face natural disasters, for those whose suffering is known only to you. Comfort those who feel desolate. Give health and wholeness to all who suffer.

Christ within, before and behind

Christ beneath, above, beside

Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

Praying also for ourselves, we ask your Spirit to accompany us through each wilderness that we must endure. Hear now the desires of our hearts...

We praise you for the Christians of time past. Give us the faith that at the end, your rainbow will bring endless beauty to all things.

O loving God, you know the needs of all the world. By your Spirit, grant that we, having turned to you in prayer, now might turn to one another in peace, tend and keep what you have made, and love our neighbor with the love of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**Christ within, before and behind
Christ beneath, above, beside
Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night**

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 "Forsaken" - Lyrics by Lenora Rand Music by Hannah Rand and Gary Rand

Why have you forsaken us?
Where have you gone?
Why have you forsaken us?
How can we go on?

Verse 1

There's a woman who has lost her child
And a man who's lost his way.
There's a boy who is keeping it inside
And a girl who cannot pray.

Chorus

Why have you forsaken us?
Where have you gone?
Why have you forsaken us?
How can we go on?
We search for your face
search for your grace
We want to follow your way.
Why have you forsaken us?
Where have you gone?

Verse 2

There's a man who says he cannot breathe
And another with a gun
There's a family who's left everything
Just exiles on the run

Chorus

There's a man forsaken on a cross
Body broken in two
There's a God hanging on a cross
Who feels it all too
Crying with us, dying with us.
Praying with us. Holding us too. (x3)

Chorus

Reprise

We search for your face
We search for your grace
We want to follow your way.
We want to follow your way.

Blessing

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God. **Amen.**

Sending

Gathered by Grace.
Sent to Serve.

Thanks be to God!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Limited in-person worship will begin on *Sunday, March 7*. Pre-registration will be required to attend in-person. We will be following social distancing guidelines as well, and masks will be required. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please call the church office and leave a voicemail message to register. We will call you back to confirm. Sanctuary doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.

Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

Mountain of Love

Each Lenten season, Prince of Peace has a Mountain of Love to support the Weekend Backpack Program, Caritas, and the Vilas Food Pantry as a spiritual practice of generosity and almsgiving. This year, we are asking for monetary donations, or you can donate specific items needed such as spices, plastic spoons, cooking oil, oatmeal packets or cups, apple cider packets, or dry soup packets. These are much needed items, but rarely donated.

Christ in Our Home

The April/May/June 2021 edition of *Christ in Our Home* is now available. If you would like one, please call the church office and leave a message (715-479-9263). We will be happy to mail one to you.

CURRENT PHASE: 2

- **Limited in-person worship.** Pre-registration will be required to attend in-person. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please **sign up** on the church website at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/signups/> or by calling the church office. **Please sign up each household individual.** Again, use the sanctuary doors to enter the building. Doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building.
- Visitors must wear a facemask and keep to social distancing guidelines.



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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