



“Lost and Found – Expansive Grace”
3rd Sunday in Lent
March 7, 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.

Call to Worship

God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;
God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us
and waste the gifts we have been given.

God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day;
let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever;
let us worship God together.

Music

"Where Jesus Was" (based on Mark 1:16-20)
The Many, Lyrics by Lenora Rand. Music by Hannah Rand

Verse 1

Where wise ones followed the star
And angels sang new songs
Where out in the cold of night impossible was born
That's where Jesus was.

Chorus

Wherever love was
That's where Jesus was.
That's where Jesus was.
Wherever hope was
That's where Jesus was, that's where Jesus was too
Whatever love would do, that's what Jesus did
And the miracle is that's still where Jesus is.

Verse 2

When eyes could finally see
When the hungry child was fed
When prisoners were freed
And kind words freely said
That's where Jesus was. *Chorus*

Verse 3

Where the sick were finally well
Loaves and fish were simply shared
When truth was truly spoken
And forgiveness really there
That's where Jesus was. *Chorus*

Ending

How can we live like Jesus lived?
How can we do what Jesus did?
How can we be where Jesus is?
We go step by step, step by step (*repeat at will*)
We go step by step and we follow.

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

Rejoicing Father,

You celebrate when one of your lost children is found because no one is worthless to you. We stand humbled and in awe that you would count us among your most prized possessions. Give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul, for the sake of the one who became human for the sake of our souls, Jesus Christ our seeker. **Amen.**

Music "O Love!" (Psalm 22:23-31) – Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Verse 1:

O Love, you never turned away
O Love, you never turned away
We remember and return to you
O Love, you never turned away

Verse 2:

O Love, you listened when we cried
O Love, you listened when we cried
We remember and return to you
O Love, you listened when we cried

Verse 3:

O Love, you brought us through the pain
O Love, you brought us through the pain
We remember and return to you
O Love, you brought us through the pain

Verse 4:

O Love, your story is our life
O Love, your story is our life
We remember and return to you
O Love, your story is our life

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-32

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Message

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Music ***“O Lord Hear My Prayer” (ELW 751) - sung by Rachel Kurtz***

**O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer:
Come and listen to me.**

Prayers of the People

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

Gracious God, who has named and claimed us, calling us your beloved children, you know the secrets of our hearts. When we sin and stray from your paths, you astound us with your saving grace. For this Word of life, we give you thanks.

Loving Jesus, living Word, in you the Kingdom of God has come near; through you all that was lost has been found. Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, trusting your promise that we need not fear, for you are with us. For this Word of life, we give you thanks.

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. For this Word of life, we give you thanks.

**O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer:
Come and listen to me.**

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows. Enliven all communities with your good news. Guide us to love and serve Jesus, giving ourselves away for the sake of the world. For this Word of life, we give you thanks.

Use our bounty to meet the needs of others, those who are homeless or hungry, and hear our prayers for all who are sick or suffering, especially all afflicted with the coronavirus and all we name here before you . . . For this Word of life, we give you thanks.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

**O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer:
Come and listen to me.**

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 *"Just As I Am"* (LBW 296) - sung by Rachel Kurtz and words by Charlotte Elliott

Verse 1

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 2

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 3

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 5

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

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 is now being held. Pre-registration is 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 register online or call the church office and leave a voicemail message. 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.

Thrivent Choice Selection Reminder

Attention Thrivent members, did you know that you can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Prince of Peace? Also, did you know that you need to intentionally make this election every year and the deadline is March 31st? If you would like to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to Prince of Peace, please call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 to make your elections or Thrivent representative Nathan Musolff at 715-350-4125 to assist you.

CURRENT PHASE: 2

- **Limited in-person worship.** Pre-registration is 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.*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 5030 Highway 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521
www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org