

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“Gathered by Grace - Sent to Serve”

“No Trouble in My Heart” Fifth Sunday of Easter May 10, 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 the gathering. Other items to gather are a **candle** and a **“worry stone”** with a heart painted or drawn on it or some other word or picture that reminds you that Jesus is present with you. You can also make or color a heart every time you hear the word “heart.”

Silence for Individual Reflection and Prayer

SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

We continue with our Easter Season because Easter isn't just one day. It is the message of God's desire for us to live fully *every day*. The early church practiced their hope 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)

We create a “temple” of worship in our hearts that connects us across boundaries, distance, and time. But as we share this worship, we will stay connected. 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 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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#733

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast
been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (*Refrain*)**

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960. Text © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

BREAK BREAD

BLESSING THE MEAL (prepare your meal or snack)

God, Our Host

God, Our Host,

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...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

And now I invite you to pick up a plate of food or a cup of drink 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

Scripture: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

I take refuge in you, Lord.
Please never let me be put to shame.
Rescue me by your righteousness!
Listen closely to me!
Deliver me quickly;
be a rock that protects me;
be a strong fortress that saves me!
You are definitely my rock and my fortress.
Guide me and lead me for the sake of your good name!
Get me out of this net that's been set for me
because you are my protective fortress.
I entrust my spirit into your hands;
you, Lord, God of faithfulness—
you have saved me.

My future is in your hands.
Don't hand me over to my enemies,
to all who are out to get me!
Shine your face on your servant;
save me by your faithful love!

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

“Don't let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me, that where I am there you may be as well. You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

Thomas replied, “But we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, “I myself am the Way—I am Truth, and I am Life. No one comes to Abba God but through me. If you really knew me, you would know Abba God also. From this point on, you know Abba God and you have seen God.”

“Rabbi,” Phillip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Phillip, and still you don’t know me? Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God. How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’? Don’t you believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me? The words I speak are not spoken of myself; it is Abba God, living in me, who is accomplishing the works of God. Believe me that I am in God and God is in me, or else believe because of the works I do. The heart and truth of the matter is, anyone who has faith in me will do the works I do—and greater works besides. Why? Because I go to Abba God, and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that God may be glorified in me. Anything you ask in my name I will do.

MEDITATION

HYMN

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

#619

(vs. 1 & 5)

**I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!**

**He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.**

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

ACTION RESPONSE

There is a tradition called the “God Box.” It is a practice of writing down some anxiety that feels too big to handle, that feels overwhelming, perhaps. You can also put something you can’t figure out quite yet such as a problem you don’t know what to do about at the moment. Letting go of it for just a while can often help free our minds to discover a new way to look at it. I invite you to write something down on a piece of paper that you would like to put in a God Box. We can make the God Box after our worship is over and place our pieces of paper inside it.

BREAKING OPEN OUR LIVES WITH DISCUSSION

Our theme scripture says, “they ate their food with glad and generous hearts.” One way we can be glad and generous is to share about how we are finding strength, hope, love, and peace in these days. This is part of “breaking bread” with each other as we break open our hearts

to one another as well. In this week's scripture, we are invited to trust in God, the rock, and to take a break from worry.

Are you finding it difficult to let go of worry, to take a break?
What have you witnessed this week that helped you feel an ongoing and steadfast love that was comforting?
Or if you can't think of something from this week, what do you have in your memory as something or someone that offered comfort?
Let's take some time at our tables to talk about these questions or write them down in our journals or on notecards.

Let's complete this sentence, "*I experience comfort (in/when/where) _____.*"

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!

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 consider all the works thy hand hath made,
 I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
 thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
 how great thou art! How great thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
 how great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
 I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
 when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
 and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; (*Refrain*)

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
 he bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration
 and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" (*Refrain*)

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989. Text © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved. (ASCAP)

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. Do not let your heart be troubled." What can we do to create more comfort in our household, in our family, in our relationships with those we cannot be with right now? How can we offer comfort to those who are working so hard right now? How can we offer comfort to anyone who is feeling anxious? Make your own plan today.

God Boxes - As you move from our worship time in this space and turn your focus to the world around us, there is so much to be in prayer about as we seek to not let our hearts be troubled. As a container for your prayers (including the ones you wrote today during our Action Response time), and a reminder to go to God in times of anxiety or overwhelm, this God Box can serve as a way of letting go and a way of collecting our prayers for others. Repurpose empty tissue boxes or shoeboxes by decorating them with colored paper, paint, or gift wrapping. You could glue small objects to the box - like crafting gems, buttons, or even pieces of broken CDs to make a mirror mosaic. There are lots of photos to spark your imagination on Pinterest!

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, offering love straight from the heart,
guiding and directing your path.
So, acknowledge your fear and your worry
and know it is as true and holy as any feeling,
including joy and hope and love.
Take heart! This is the heart of the matter.
Amen.

POSTLUDE JAM

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003288.
CCLI License #11245532. One License # A-709338. Liturgy and Design © 2019
worshipdesignstudio.com, adapted by permission.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to Serve”

5030 Highway 70 West ~ P.O. Box 535
Eagle River, WI 54521

Church office: 715-479-9263 pop@princeofpeace-er.org

Pastor Andrea Fluegel pastor@princeofpeace-er.org

Website www.princeofpeace-er.org



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.*