

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“Gathered by Grace - Sent to Serve”

“Kept in Our Hearts”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

#413
(vs. 1 & 4)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

BREAK BREAD

BLESSING THE MEAL (prepare your meal or snack)

Holy and Living God

Holy and Living God,

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

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

“If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another [Companion], another Helper to be with you always—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees nor recognizes... but you can recognize the Spirit because the Spirit remains with you and will be within you.

I won’t leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see no more; but you’ll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you’ll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Those who obey my commandments are the ones who love me, and those who love me will be loved by Abba God. I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them.”

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-16a

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

MEDITATION

HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

#742

(vs. 1 & 3)

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!**

**What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!**

Oh, what peace we often forfeit;

oh, what needless pain we bear--

all because we do not carry

ev'rything to God in prayer!

**Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.**

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

ACTION RESPONSE

I invite you to turn to someone (now or after worship if you are alone right now), and remind them that you love them, God loves them, and we hope they are giving some love to themselves too! Because it is the right thing to do!

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 encouraged to obey Christ’s commands, which is to love God, to love neighbor, and to love ourselves.

What have you done lately to honor the holy in you– to love yourself, and take care of yourself? Have you witnessed people doing the right thing for others? Or if you can’t think of something from this week, what do you have in your memory as something or someone that showed the Christ in them? 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 honor the holy in me by taking care of myself (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!

HYMN

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

#408

(vs. 1 & 3)

Come, thou almighty King,

help us thy name to sing;

help us to praise;

Father all-glorious,

o'er all victorious,

come and reign over us,

Ancient of Days.

Come, holy Comforter,

thy sacred witness bear

in this glad hour!

Thou who almighty art,

rule now in ev'ry heart,

never from us depart,

Spirit of pow'r.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

HAVE GOODWILL

"You are not alone. I am here. And my Spirit is your Helper!" What can we do to create more love in our household, in our family, in our relationships with those we cannot be with right now? How can we offer our hearts to those who are working so hard right now? How can we tell others that we have hope? Make your own plan today.

Hold People in Our Hearts - Make a large heart out of whatever paper you have on hand. Fill the heart with names of people you keep in your heart. This is a good time to talk with your family about the people they are missing and hope to see when we are back together after we've been in quarantine. Take a photo of the heart and send it to the people you have named to remind them that you hold them in love.

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

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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.*