

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

"Gathered by Grace - Sent to Serve"

## Christmas in July

July 26, 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**

Good Christian friends, rejoice!

Today Christ is born in Bethlehem and here in Eagle River, and in Wisconsin, and in all the cities, towns and villages of our nation, and of our world.

From realms of glory, angels sing.

From fields, keeping their watch by night, shepherds arrive.

Bearing gifts, wise people travel from afar.

And we too have come to the manger to see the newborn king.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us now take a moment to set our worship space and turn our hearts and our minds toward Christ.

### **LIGHT OUR WAY**

*Environment: A room that can be darkened. Each participant has a small vigil light. We begin with no candles lit.*

In the sacred seasons of Advent and Christmas, we remember and celebrate the gift of Divine Love who leapt from the Holy Womb into the heart of humanity. This Loving Presence became for us a source of hope, compassion, and courage. This Love Incarnate came as a Light radiating compassion, a Torch bearing truth, a Beacon offering guidance.

As we welcome this Light we begin in the dark. Be attentive to darkness. Recognize that some darkness is good and nurturing. The Christ was nurtured in a womb of darkness and came forth from this blessed darkness to be a Light for us. Other darkness is destructive and bleeds love

from the world. It is the darkness of war, racism, hatred, greed and all non-loving in whatever form it takes. The Christ came to stand up to this destructive darkness and to light our path with goodness.

### **INDIVIDUAL PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

Let us pause now for reflection on the darkness in our world as we sit without light.

*After the time of darkness, one central candle is lit. Then the following passage from Isaiah 9:2 is proclaimed:*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

*Each participant lights their own individual candle from the central candle or from a light as it is passed around the group.*

May the light of these candles we carry be a reminder of the divine radiance within us. As we hold these candles, may we walk with hope and confidence in the power of our God to dispel all destructive darkness.

### **SENDING HOPE TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH**

*All hold their lit candles and face east.*

We face the direction of the rising sun. May each dawn offer us hope and remind us of the coming of Christ to our world. We open our hearts to receive this Divine Light (pause)... Let us now offer this Birthing Light to all in the east who need hope.

**Light our way, Light our way,  
As we journey in the darkness.  
Light our way, Light our way,  
Gift us with hope for our world.**

*All turn to face the south.*

We face the south with its energy of growth, vitality, and abundant fruitfulness. We open our hearts to embrace the Divine Light, source of all spiritual transformation. Let us offer this Radiant Love to anyone dwelling in the south who is experiencing darkness.

**Light our way, Light our way,  
As we journey in the darkness.  
Light our way, Light our way,  
Gift us with hope for our world.**

*All turn to face the west.*

We face the place of the setting sun, the ending of the day. We open our hearts to receive the Divine Light that guides us in our times of farewell. Let us offer this Divine Wisdom to all who need guidance in their darkness.

**Light our way, Light our way,  
As we journey in the darkness.  
Light our way, Light our way,  
Gift us with hope for our world.**

*All turn to face the north.*

We face the north with its strength and its challenge, with its natural beauty, and with its long months of wintered barrenness. We open our hearts to receive the strength of the Divine Light. Let us offer this Divine Courage of the Divine Light to all in the north who yearn for new life to sprout from their darkness.

**Light our way, Light our way,  
As we journey in the darkness.  
Light our way, Light our way,  
Gift us with hope for our world.**

### **PROCESSION AND PLACEMENT OF CANDLES**

*All place their candles on the altar or table, gathering in a circle around the candles, if possible.*

**Light our way, Light our way,  
As we journey in the darkness.  
Light our way, Light our way,  
Gift us with hope for our world.**

You are invited silently in your heart or aloud with your voice to lift up to God through the love of Jesus, one hope or longing such as “I hope...” or “I long for...”

### **SIGN OF PEACE**

*All are encouraged to share some sign of peace and hope with one another. Then the following verse from Isaiah 60:1 is proclaimed.*

Arise, shine, for your light has come  
And the glory of God has risen upon you.

**Light our way, Light our way,  
As we journey in the darkness.  
Light our way, Light our way,  
Gift us with hope for our world.**

### **HYMN**

*“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

**#294**  
*(vs. 1 & 3)*

**In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.**

**What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Psalm 21:4-7*

<sup>4</sup> He asked you for life; you gave it to him—length of days forever and ever. <sup>5</sup> His glory is great through your help; splendor and majesty you bestow on him. <sup>6</sup> You bestow on him blessings forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence. <sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the Lord, and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

### **GOSPEL READING**

*Matthew 1:18-25*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
**We hear God’s word full of grace and truth.**

### **MESSAGE**

*Pastor Andrea Fluegel*

### **HYMN**

*“Joy to the World”*

**#267**

**(vs. 1, 2 & 4)**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

### **CONFESSING OUR FAITH**

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

### **OFFERING**

#### **HYMN**

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**#289**

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

#### ***Refrain***

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you are the bread of life that nourishes and sustains us.  
Since we today cannot gather to share the bread and cup,  
dwell in our hearts  
and reveal to us again that we are the body of Christ:  
in our vulnerable flesh,  
through our baptism into your death and resurrection,  
and in service to the world you love.

Be for us manna in the wilderness.  
Open our eyes to see you present in every meal  
and in all who hunger for bread,  
for human touch,  
and for healing and hope.

Help us to remember  
Your presence is the living impulse in all things,  
the Christ deep among us,  
filling Earth—land, sea, and air;  
filling every element and place;  
filling the grain and the grape we share as your children.

On the night of his betrayal and arrest,  
Jesus taught us how to serve one another in love  
with a ritual of table fellowship,  
scandalous in its welcome of all people.

On that night, he took bread,  
gave thanks and broke it,  
giving it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat.  
This is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray in your name, our healer and companion. **Amen.**

*Communion will be distributed to household unit by scheduled times through the church website  
or by contacting the church office.*

## **THE 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.**

## **BLESSING**

Christ our teacher, lead you from stress into peace.  
Eternal wisdom, root you in all knowledge.  
Spirit of discernment, take care of things beyond your control.  
God of certainty in uncertain times opens you to new things.  
Holy Light, who puts things in perspective, show you new possibilities all the time.  
God, who brings order out of confusion, shape a future for you that you can't even imagine.  
In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.  
May the light of Christ guide your way.  
**Christ is our light. We go forth in hope.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## Announcements

\* We are offering outside communion under the portico. The portico will protect us from the elements so that we can still have communion if it rains. Note that this is not “drive up” communion. You will need to park your car near the portico and then walk to it. Communion will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call the church office and leave a voicemail message with the day and time you prefer. We will contact you.

\* DVD’s of the previous Sunday’s worship are now available at POP! Please contact the church office via telephone (715-479-9263) if you would like one.

\*Hand-made **Mask Extension Bands** are now available at POP. (*You can pick one or more up when you come for outdoor Communion!*) This is a woven band with a button on each end that allows you to connect your facemask elastic to the buttons and **NOT** over your ears. This is especially helpful for people who wear glasses and/or hearing aids!

\* Thank you so much for thinking about the Northland Pines School District students and families. There will be a green tote outside the main doors of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (*under the portico*) for food drop-off from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**. Please do not drop off expired food or items past their sell-by dates. We are unable to use them.

\* We would appreciate your support of the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship and other ministries. You can give any amount by mailing a check to us at P.O. Box 535, Eagle River, WI 54521.

### **CURRENT PHASE: 1**

- Fully digital worship and fellowship
- Individually scheduled communion under portico available
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



### **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.*