

# PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“A Disciple Making Community”*

*“KNOW, GROW, and GO”*

West Salem, Wisconsin  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



## Our Mission:

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ”

## Our Message:

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Pastor Peter Adelsen

765-860-5204

[peter.adelsen@gmail.com](mailto:peter.adelsen@gmail.com)

Church Office

608-786-3938

[office@wspop.org](mailto:office@wspop.org)

## **Holy Communion at Prince of Peace, LCMS**

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod practices “Close Communion” as an expression of unity in doctrine (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10). When a person partakes of the Sacrament at the Altar he is also confessing his unreserved agreement with that church body’s doctrine. Because of doctrinal differences existing between the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran bodies, and also with other denominations, we cannot expect their members to make that kind of confession at our altar, nor do we desire anyone to compromise his own convictions and his church body’s teachings. Therefore, our practice of “Close Communion” admits only those in doctrinal agreement who are members of congregations of the Missouri Synod.*

*The Holy Sacrament requires a mature participation which includes self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28). Scripture also warns against “unworthy” reception (impenitence or unbelief) which would bring God’s judgment on the recipient: 1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:29. Thus, out of loving concern for all, and commitment to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we practice “Close Communion”. We thank you for your cooperation and respect for our practice.*

*Those who will not be communing, but would like to receive a blessing are invited to come forward. Please cross your arms on your chest to indicate that you are requesting a blessing. May the Holy Spirit bless us all as we “Search the Scriptures” (John 5:39), and humbly strive to “Continue in His Word.” (John 8:31) Please speak to an elder if you have questions concerning communion.*

### **Theme**

The waters of Baptism connect us to God forever. Baptism, through water and the Word, creates faith in our hearts by which we are able to confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and is from God. Through Baptism, we are able to believe, to love, and to bear fruit. In the fulfillment of all deeds, witnessing and believing, we are to abide in the Word, which is Christ Himself.

**Order of Service:**

**Divine Service I, page 151ff**

**Confession and Absolution**

**(LSB p. 151)**

## Service of the Word

(LSB p.152-160)

### Introit

*Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

A little while, and you will see me no longer;  
**and again a little while, and you will see me.**

I will extol you, my God and King,  
**and bless your name forever and ever.**

Every day I will bless you  
**and praise your name forever and ever.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
**and all your saints shall bless you!**

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
**and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A little while, and you will see me no longer;  
**and again a little while, and you will see me.**

### Kyrie

(LSB p.152)

### Hymn of Praise

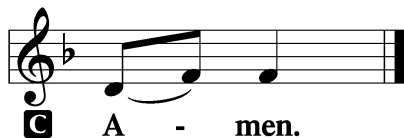
(LSB p.154)

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

(LSB p. 156)

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## First Reading: Acts 8:26–40

Acts 8:26–40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

**he has put all things under his feet.**

## Epistle: 1 John 4:1–21

*1 John 4:1–21*

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has

seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

*John 6:68*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel: John 15:1–8

*John 15:1–8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever

you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day

633 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing

Sermon

“Staying Connected to the Vine” John 15:1-8

Nicene Creed

(LSB p. 158/ Inside back cover of LSB)

## Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Church on earth, that she would be protected from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, and so always confess Christ come in the flesh, remaining faithful to Him, our only true God, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For God’s people, that as branches of the vine, all sin and dead works would be pruned and cut off from them; and that drawing life from the Son, they would continually produce the fruits of faith and good works, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all those in need of Baptism, that nothing would prevent them from being welcomed into God’s kingdom and given everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with God’s good order, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

- P** For all who bear the cross in suffering and affliction, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*], that they would ever look to the Lord and so fix their hearts where true joy is found, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who come to God’s feast of love, that they may worthily eat of Christ’s body and blood, abiding in this love of God and God in them, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory

(LSB p.159)

### Service of the Sacrament

(LSB p. 160-166)

## Distribution Hymns

540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

### Nunc Dimittis

(LSB p. 165)

*Luke 2:29–32*

### Post-Communion Collect

(LSB p. 166)

### Benediction

(LSB p. 166)

*Numbers 6:24–26*

### Closing Hymn

474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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