

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Appleton, WI**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 2, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.**

ELW denotes the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal  
P-Pastor C-Congregation



**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

P We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

C **We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen**

**GATHERING SONG**

***The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done***

ELW 366

St. 1, 3 & 5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
now is the victor's triumph won!  
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped,  
Christ rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes that wounded you,  
from death's sting free your servants too,  
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909

**GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open 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>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: 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 loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so 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 reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

P Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
 - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
 Hal - le - lu - jah.  
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.  
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Jennifer DeNetz

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak*

ELW 676

Lord, speak to us, that we may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let us seek  
your straying children, lost and lone.

Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead  
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;  
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed  
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.

Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach  
the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing our words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.

Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,  
until our very hearts o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray. God of love,

**C** you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen

#### PRAYERS

Petitions end: Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

**P** In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us

**C** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

#### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## FINAL BLESSING

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
C **Amen**

## CLOSING HYMN

### *On Our Way Rejoicing*

ELW 537

On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

#### *Refrain*

On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing now and evermore. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

## DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



## COMMUNION LITURGY

### *There in God's Garden*

ELW 342



There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;  
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it  
nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."

This is my ending, this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590-c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982  
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## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P Blessed are you O God, for you made the earth and all that is, and declared it good.  
C **Blessed are you.**  
P In Christ you entered into creation, into our humanity, into our vulnerability, into our mortality.  
C **Blessed are you.**  
P You stayed with us through conflict, through suffering, through death.  
C **Blessed are you for raising Jesus from the dead, in him promising new life to all.**

## INVITATION

- P The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*(Pastor will lead this, line by line; you are invited to repeat each line and do the same actions. When we have finished these words, then communion may be shared.)*

- P In the night in which our Lord was betrayed ... *(repeat)*  
he took bread and gave thanks ... *(repeat, may raise bread)*  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying ... *(repeat)*  
Take and eat; this is my body given for you ... *(repeat)*  
Do this for the remembrance of me .... *(repeat)*

Again, after supper he took the cup, and gave thanks ... *(repeat, may raise cup)*  
and gave it for all to drink, saying, ... *(repeat)*  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood ... *(repeat)*  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin .... *(repeat)*  
For as often as we eat of this bread ... *(repeat)*  
and drink from this cup ... *(repeat)*  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.... *(repeat)*

*(You may now share the bread and wine with one another. You may use these or similar words.)*

- This is the body of Christ, broken for you.
- This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Parents/Caregivers speak a blessing over younger children who have not completed communion instruction, saying, "Remember always, you are a beloved child of God!" (or another blessing listed below).*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P Great God of gifts,  
C **we thank you!**

P You feed us in many ways  
C **and we are grateful to receive!**  
P We look to you;  
C **we look to each other, and we praise your name.**  
P As you've fed us,  
C **now make us food for the world!**  
P As this meal empowers us  
C **to Grow in Faith and Reach out to others in Love! Thank you, Great God of gifts! AMEN**

#### DISMISSAL

P Be at Peace! Serve the Lord!  
C **Thanks be to God!**

#### What to do about blessing children?

Parents/Caregivers should speak a blessing over younger children who aren't communing. Please do not commune children who have not completed instruction from PoP. You may place your hands on their heads as you speak the blessing. Both parents/caregivers can do this together. Here are some suggestions. You may use these or similar words that come from your heart.

- Remember always, you are a beloved child of God!
- May you always know Jesus loves you!
- Jesus died and rose again for you and for all and watches over us.
- May God keep you in the covenant of your baptism.

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### Worship Leaders

Ministers – Jennifer DeNetz & Roger McQuiston  
Musicians – Sondra Joten & Jeff Sheffler  
Technical Support – Nathan Jansen, Tom Richmond & Dan LaPorte

### Mission Statement

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a family of Christians  
Growing in Faith and Reaching out in Love**

### PoP Vision 2024

**We will be an engaged and inclusive congregation of disciples,  
transforming the lives in our community through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**