



THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 12, 2023 ✠ 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM

50 PRINCE OF PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

WEBSITE
popslc.org



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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.
- * If you could use some hearing assistance, please ask the usher in the entryway, we have headsets available.



Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

The Time In Between - A Time to be Watchful

In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Christ came to our world to win salvation by his life, death, and resurrection; and the second time Christ will come to consummate his everlasting kingdom. We live in the time in between those two points. It is a time of tension. We know that peace and perfection are ours already because of what Jesus did the first time he came. Yet we do not enjoy a peaceful and perfect existence now already. We will not know such a life until Christ comes again. And so we wait and watch, living in the time in between. As the church year draws to a close, Scripture points us toward the end of time when Christ will come again. Until then Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between.

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time in between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness. The Church prayers, "Lord God, keep us every watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven."

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.*
Hymns not printed in this service folder are found in the blue hymnals in each pew. 

Hymn 493 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Invocation

Please stand.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Out of the depths we cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices.

Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.

Heavenly Father, we confess with sorrow that we have sinned and deserve only Your anger and punishment.

If You kept a record of our sins, we would surely be lost.

We confess with joy that Your unfailing love has redeemed us.

Our hope is in You and in Your full redemption.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Verses of Encouragement and Praise

The ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 55:11

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace.

Acts 20:24

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12

There is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1 Peter 5:4

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 52:1-6

Israel got spiritually sleepy and so the Lord's prophet cries out: "Awake!" God promised He would lead them home. The Church still gets distracted from her goal and sleepy on her way. So the prophet cries to us, "Awake!" for the day of triumph is coming when God will redeem us from sin, death, and the devil forever. He is leading us home.

¹Awake, awake, Zion,
clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
will not enter you again.
²Shake off your dust;
rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
Daughter Zion, now a captive.
³For this is what the LORD says:
"You were sold for nothing,
and without money you will be
redeemed."
⁴For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"At first my people went down to Egypt to
live;
lately, Assyria has oppressed them.
⁵"And now what do I have here?" declares
the LORD.
"For my people have been taken away for
nothing,
and those who rule them mock,"
declares the LORD.
"And all day long
my name is constantly blasphemed.
⁶Therefore my people will know my name;
therefore in that day they will know
that it is I who foretold it.
Yes, it is I."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day | verses of Psalm 90 *spoken responsively*

The Church prays psalm 90 in services that recognize the perspective that comes after the passage of time, especially when joy comes after relief from affliction.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

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.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

St. Paul calls us to be awake, alert and different because we are the children of God who belong to the Light and who reflect the light of Christ. This lesson will be the basis of the sermon this morning.

¹Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those

who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42

Alleluia! Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.
Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a story about how he will usher us into heaven, pictured here as a lavish wedding banquet. He wants us to be ready to meet him when that day comes!

¹"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not

take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6“ At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7“ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9“ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10“ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins

who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11“ Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12“ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13“ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day | 486 Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

Sermon 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Children of the light, wake up!

Please stand

Apostles’ Creed

**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,

*Romans 10:10; Dt 6:4
Matthew 6:9; Ex 6:3
Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
Colossians 1:16*

*Romans 10:9
Matthew 16:16
John 3:16
John 1:1,8:12,17:22
Colossians 2:9
John 1:2
John 10:30
Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3
1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23
John 6:41; Luke 15:20
Luke 1:34-35
John 1:14
Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18
Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53
1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6
Acts 1:9
Acts 7:55
Matthew 26:64
Acts 10:42; My 3:12
2 Peter 1:11
Jn 14:26; Acts 2:38*

the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Genesis 1:2; John 3:6
John 15:26
Mt 3:16-17; Lk
Ez 11:5; 2 Pt 1:20-21
1 Peter 2:5; Eph 2:19-22
Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38
1 Co 15:35-49; 1 Thes 4
Psalm 106:48

Be seated.

Prayer of the Church

Lord, You are our help and deliverer. We bring to You the prayers and petitions of Your people, that You may grant us all things needful and guard us against all things harmful. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, show mercy to those who cry aloud as they await Your Son's coming in glory. Answer them with strength and healing, comfort and hope. Make them confident in Christ, who will raise His people on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, Your Son will descend from heaven with a cry of command, raise those who have fallen asleep and deliver us to Your kingdom of glory. Until that day, strengthen us by His body and blood and prepare us for His coming in glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our salvation, we know neither the day nor the hour of Christ's return, but we know that He has died and is risen again to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Until that day, preserve us in faith and guard us from temptation. Do not let us be caught unprepared for His coming. Let

us live our days in loving service and joyful expectation of the life of the world to come; Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of nations, let us never forget those who have devoted themselves to our protection through military service. Make us grateful for their willingness to leave their families and sacrifice their lives out of love for our country. Help us honor their service by faithfully fulfilling our own vocations as citizens, so that their sacrifices are not rendered useless. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for...Holly Kirth, Sam, Mike Jones, Harry Calvert, Grace and Gabby (friends of Des injured in accident), Meg and Millie (Molly Ambrose sister in critical condition and niece in hospice), Liz Kijowski's family at the death of her brother.

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever. **Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*



THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.
And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin. We remember and give you thanks for everything your Son has done for our salvation.

Bless us as we receive His body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Remember us in Your kingdom as we pray...

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.

The Words of Our Lord Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us, grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

Hymn 713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Your † sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

Prayer and Blessing

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn 884 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See



We thank the Lord for Amy Sehloff and her gifts used to serve us with music this morning!

Waiting patiently for God always includes joyful expectation. Without expectation our waiting can get bogged down in the present. When we wait in expectation our whole beings are open to be surprised by joy.

All through the Gospels Jesus tells us to keep awake and stay alert.

And Paul says, "Brothers and sisters... the moment is here for you to stop sleeping and wake up, because by now our salvation is nearer than when we first began to believe. The night is nearly over, daylight is on the way; so let us throw off everything that belongs to the darkness and equip ourselves for the light" (Romans 13:11-12). It is this joyful expectation of God's coming that offers vitality to our lives.

The expectation of the fulfillment of God's promises to us is what allows us to pay full attention to the road on which we are walking.

-HENRI NOUWEN, *BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY*

This is the function of the Divine Service in the Christian life: to be taken out of ourselves and into the life of God. At the core, the problem of our anxiety is the problem of our constantly drifting away from the center of our lives, which is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Under the pressures of daily living we wander and sometimes run to the edges of life, where we eventually come face-to-face with our own anxiety. This anxiety is a warning sign that we have drifted far. We begin grasping for a secure place to hang on that will prevent us from falling over the mind's edge into the abyss of despair. [...]

We tell ourselves all we need to do is try harder or its opposite, relax more. We try to discover some new technique or lifestyle that will resolve the tension. The farther we drift from God, the more we are doomed to our own failing resources. In the end this destroys us both physically and spiritually.

God's response to our drifting is dealt with in the liturgy of public worship, and He begins by giving us a password by which to enter into His presence. That password, given us in the Invocation, is His holy name of "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." In the Invocation, in the Benediction, and when we speak or sing in praise saying, "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit," we call on God to lift us out of ourselves and into His healing presence. There, our vision of life is broadened and the air becomes fresh once again. It is there, in the presence of God and lifted out of ourselves by God, that we find healing for all our anxieties, worries, and fears. And if we are willing, they can all be left behind so that we may return to our homes in peace.

-RICHARD C. EYER, *THEY WILL SEE HIS FACE*