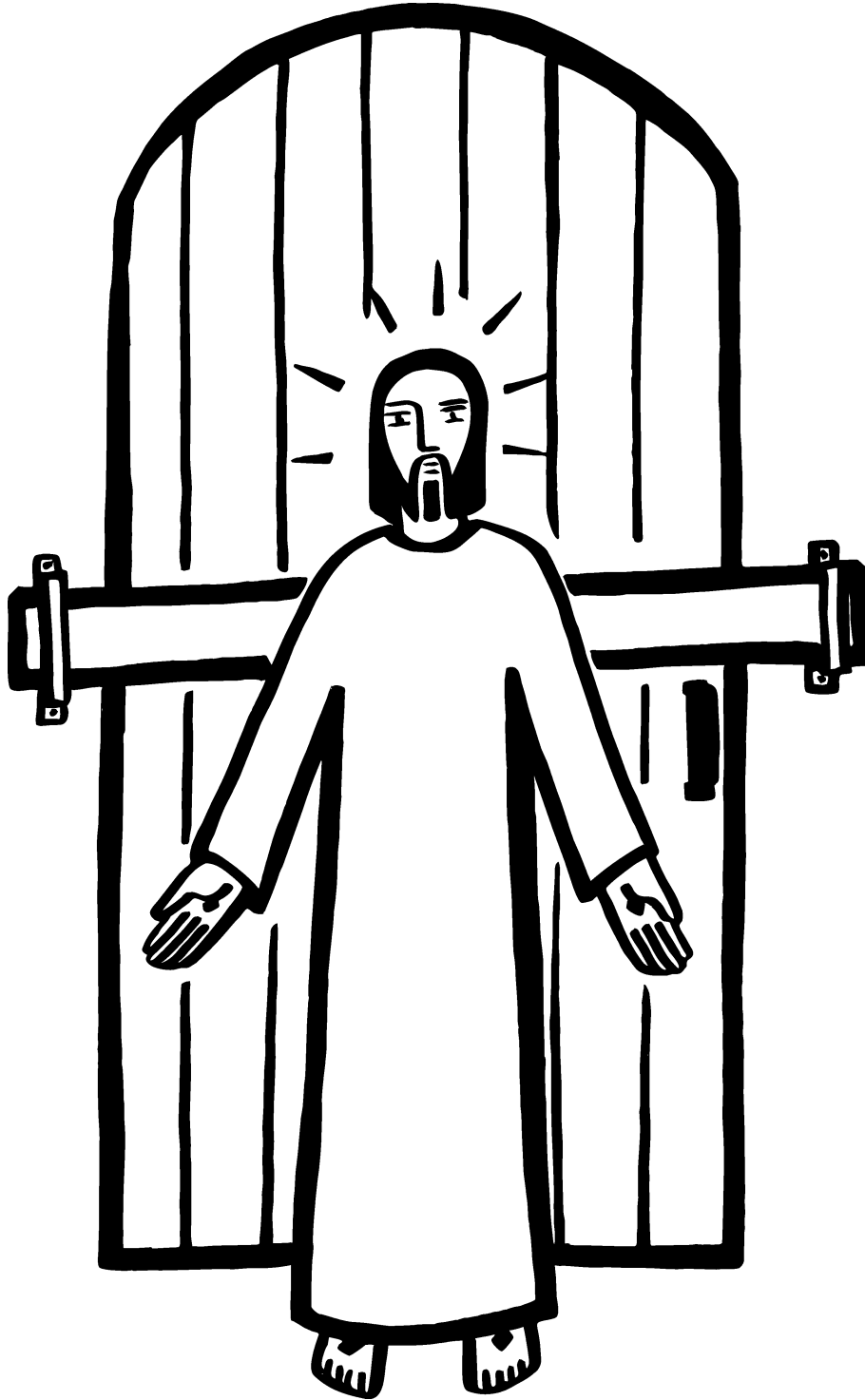


Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: [YouTube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga](https://www.youtube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga)



April 7, 2024
First Sunday in Easter

Welcome! We start worship by welcoming in our new members.

As we gather today, we are grateful for this time to worship, sing and receive God's life-giving sacrament.

Everything you need for worship is included in this bulletin.

Spanish language bulletins are blue.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Welcome to Prince of Peace! As we begin worship, we hope and pray this will be a time of connecting to God and one another so that we might leave this worship service ready to love and serve our neighbors.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Gathering

Prelude *Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises* arr. Mark Sedio

Welcome

****Please stand as you are able****

***New Member Litany**

Pastor: Will you show up with this community for worship, study, prayer, and service to others?

New Members: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor: Will you practice being curious about Scripture, your neighbor, and God's ongoing creation in daily life?

New Members: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor: Will you share your sense of call and unique talents with a spirit of generosity in the life of this congregation?

New Members: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Prayer: **Gathering God, you knit your people together in the body of Christ and form congregations to do your good work. Be present in our feasting and praying and our worship and service, so that this community reflects your abundance and desire for the church on earth today and always. Amen.**

Pastor: We give thanks for the unique stories and talents you bring to this community. The church is a living organism, and your commitment adds value and energy to who we are as a congregation.

Sponsors: We promise to welcome your faith as it flows through life's joy and challenges. We desire for this church to be a safe place where you can show up as your true self and be received with love and grace.

Entire Congregation: Faith is a team sport, and we are in this together. In this community, we choose curiosity over certainty, and strive to honor each other's faith expressions and life experiences with respect and love.

Council Member: We also acknowledge that we will fail you. This congregation will both embrace and resist change. Sometimes we will disagree and make mistakes. So we ask that, on this side of disappointment, you promise to stick around for the healing that surely comes. Because if you go before the listening and the mending, you will miss the holy thing about being the church: the dying and the rising, the forgiving and the living. Do you desire to become members of this congregation, investing in the future of this shared mission and ministry?

New Members: We choose the fullness of this community!

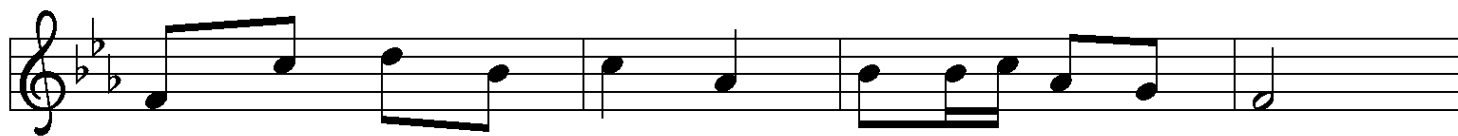
All: We welcome you as members of this congregation, inspired and invested in the ministry we all share. You are beloved, and your presence here is a gift! May God bless these new relationships and our common call as agents of God's mercy and the abundance the world needs!

***Gathering Hymn** *Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW 379

(printed on the next page)

Now the Green Blade Rises



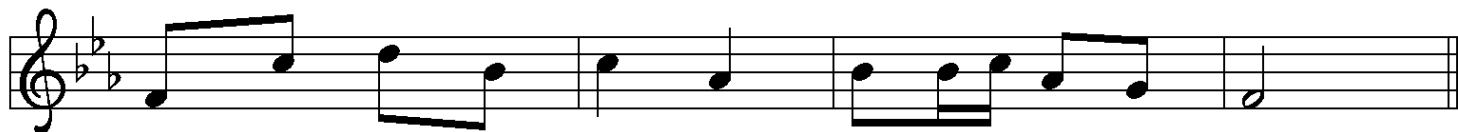
1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

*Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Risen Christ, our eternal Savior, **like the disciples, we are gathered together the week after Easter: wondering whether it is true, marveling at the possibility, and daring to hope. Like the disciples, we are sometimes afraid, sometimes full of doubt.**

But you appear to us in our fear and love us in our doubts and grant us the oceans of your peace. Teach us not to hide from our doubt, but to recognize it as a door to mystery and to deeper faith. Amen.

An incredibly short and powerful Psalm. Two Sundays ago, when our middle school education (Confirmation) kids visited our local synagogue for interfaith education, their young kids sang this Psalm in Hebrew! I am so grateful that PoP is a member of our local interfaith group. Peace begins and continues with relationship.

The Word

First Reading

Psalm 133

¹How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
³It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and

A request...as you listen to this story, consider Thomas' point of view! Such a specific request-to see the wounds of Christ. Did he doubt or was he aware of what Jesus had told them--- that many would pretend to be the Messiah. If Jesus came back today, what would prove to YOU that it was him?

Peace poles are located all over the world! Just google the name and you can find a map of their locations.

stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Message

Drew Ajer

Sermon

Pastor Sara

***Song of the Day** *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

(printed on the next page)

***Prayers of the People**

We join together in praying as a church body. Prayers are organized by themes and each prayer ends with...

L: Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

***Passing of the Peace & Blessing the Peace Pole**

As we pass the peace today we will also be blessing our peace pole that will be installed outside of our sanctuary. May this new pole & our time of passing the peace be part of bringing about God's Shalom for all!

***Offering**

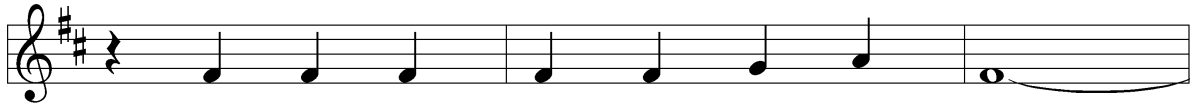
Your offering makes possible and powerful the ministries of this congregation. You may place your offering in one of the plates in the back of the church.

If you wish to give your offering electronically today, please scan this QR code.

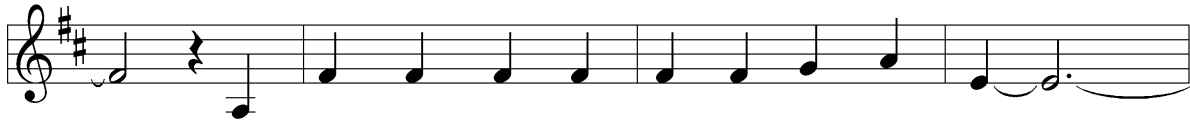


Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

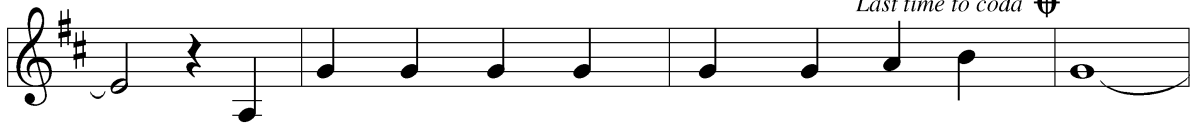


1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

Last time to coda ⊕



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda



loved as to love with all my soul.



ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

The Meal

****Please stand as you are able****

***Words of Institution**

***Invitation to Receive Communion**

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, welcomes everyone (and we mean everyone!) to this table. No matter one's race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, or faith background.

***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, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Music

Choir

The communion bread is vegan and we have gluten free options. Wine is red, grape juice is white. Please be welcome here!

If the walk to the altar is too far, just let our usher know and we can bring you communion!

During the sending of Pastor Sara on her sabbatical, her stole will be removed, signifying that she is on pause from being our pastor. Stoles are placed on a pastor's shoulder at their ordination, signifying their call and responsibility to the vows of clergy person. The stole will remain on the back table as a reminder of our mutual relationship of prayer and support in the next months!

The Sending

Announcements

Sending Pastor Sara to Sabbatical

***Blessing**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Song: *Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises* ELW 535
(printed on the next page)

Please be seated and enjoy the postlude music

Postlude *Let There Be Peace On Earth*

arr. Reflet des Nuages

***Dismissal and Planting the Peace Pole**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

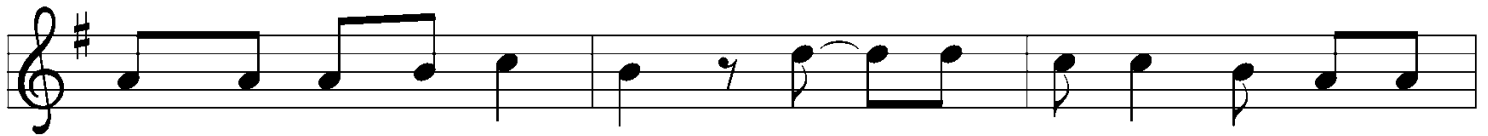
Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain – sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Text: South African; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984

Music: HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA, South African

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With thanks to our worship leaders:

Todd Hauschildt, *Head Usher*

Connie Chen, *Reader*

Carol Bierach, *Altar Guild*

Erika Garcia & Lois Lund, *Coffee Hosts*

Prince of Peace Staff

Rev. Sara Pearson

Drew Ajer, Director of Youth and Service

Sharon DeGraw, Intern Pastor

Anne Hess, Office Manager

Katie Hoffman, Office Associate

Barbara Day Turner, Director of Music

Michael Touchi, Pianist/Organist

Kerry Lewis, Music Staff Associate

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CCLI License # 1772348

New Member Litany written by Meta Herrick Carlson.

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Scan this code to connect to our hearing assistance app.



Welcome Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us! Please drop by the welcome center and sign our guest book, or use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate.

Learn about upcoming events: ask for a copy of the “Peace Notes”, our printed announcements and calendar. We invite you to learn more about us on our website at propeace.org.

Prince of Peace is a congregation in the *Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA*.

We are proud to be a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation, publicly affirming our commitment to be a welcoming community of faith for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

We are also a member of *NAMI-FaithNet*, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.

