

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA**

propeace.org

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



**First Sunday in Easter  
April 12, 2026**

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

Welcome to worship at Prince of Peace! This is a pro-participation, anti-perfectionism worship service. Our ushers are ready guides and your pew neighbor a willing help, if you would like.

*May this time and space be a holy encounter.*

**Bold print indicates response from all the people**

## Gathering

**Prelude** *A Grove*

Daniel Hughes

## Welcome & Blessing of the Paschal Candle

## New Member Welcome Litany

*Today we will welcome in new members to our congregation. What a joy!*

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 mend-ing, 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

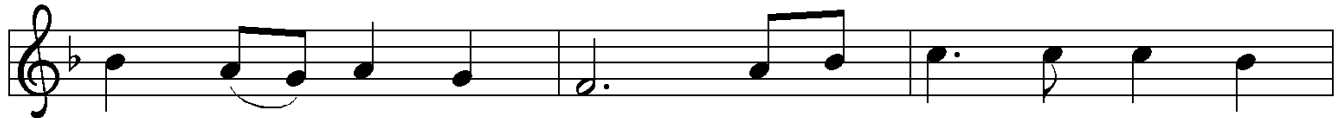
# All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
end to fear and dan - ger:  
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, **the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who wonder, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **The Word**

### **\*Gospel**

**John 20:19-31**

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

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So 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."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue 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.**

**\*Hymn of the Day** Touch That Soothes and Heals  
*See My Hands and Feet*



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that  
 2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it  
 3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's  
 4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the  
 ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and  
 peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of  
 wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:  
 shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.  
 kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.  
 tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

*Refrain*



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

## \*Prayers of the People

P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

## The Passing of the Peace & Offering

We celebrate the gift of God-with-us as we offer to one another greetings of peace via handshake, hug or wave. Please practice consent when passing the peace by asking if someone wishes to be hugged or touched. This respects everyone's sensitivities and helps make worship more comfortable for all.

Your offerings help support the many ministries of this congregation. You may place offering in the plates at the back of the church; If you wish to give your offering electronically, please scan this image. Thank you!



Holy Communion is by invitation of Jesus Christ. All people who desire to experience the grace of God are welcomed regardless of age, race, faith, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientations, gender expression, political party, or physical ability.

If you do not wish to receive communion, you may also come to altar with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like to receive a blessing instead.

## The Meal

### Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

**C: Christ has died. Christ is Risen Christ will come again.**

### Lord's Prayer

*You are invited to pray in the style and language most familiar to you:*

**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.**

## Welcome to Communion

Communion is one of two sacraments in our ELCA Lutheran tradition. A sacred-moment combines God's promises with a tangible object. At this table you can receive the grace, goodness, and strength of Christ. And remember...**All** are welcome.

# The Sending

## Announcements

### Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **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.

**Amen.**

♪♪ Music Notes ♪♪

From our guest pianist,  
Daniel Hughes:

These are pieces I will be performing with my adult choir *The Choral Project* (the choir that always combines with SJCO each December) on April 19th at 5PM at St. Andrew's.

It is a concert featuring mostly music I have written, plus a few titles by other folks that have inspired my musical journey.

**\*Sending Hymn** *Now the Green Blade Rises*

*(next page)*

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude** *Denali*

Daniel Hughes

### Thanks to our worship participants:

Video Production: Ethan W. & David L.

Ushers: Todd H & Gabe P-W

Altar Guild: Carol B. & Dave B.

Coffee Hosts: Jamie Y., Cionee & Don F.

Reader: Ginger Drake

Guest Pianist: Dan Hughes

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### Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Sara Pearson

Drew Ajer, Director of Youth & Service

Anne Hess, Office Administrator

Barbara Day Turner, Director of Music

Michael Touchi, Organist

Katie Hoffman, Office Associate

Kerry Lewis, Music Staff Associate

# 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.

## Welcome Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us! If you feel inclined, and want a follow-up, use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate so our volunteers can deliver a welcome gift. 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](http://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. PoP is also a member of NAMI-FaithNet, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.