

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA**

[propeace.org](http://propeace.org)

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



**April 27, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday in Easter**

*Welcome!*

Welcome to Dr.  
Moses  
Penumaka!

Dr. Penumaka  
serves on the  
faculty at Pacific  
Lutheran  
Theological  
Seminary  
(PLTS) of  
California  
Lutheran  
University. He  
has been serving  
as the Director  
of Theological  
Education for  
Emerging  
Ministers  
(TEEM) at  
PLTS since  
2008.

Everything you  
need for worship  
is included in  
this bulletin.

Spanish  
language  
bulletins are  
blue.

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

[propeace.org](http://propeace.org)

*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** *Prelude Through All Keys, op. 39, no. 2*

Ludwig van Beethoven

## **Welcome**

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

## **\*Call to Worship**

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

**\*Gathering Hymn** *There in God's Garden* ELW 342

*(printed on the next page)*

# There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

## \*Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.

# The Word

## First Reading

1 John 4:16b-21

God.

Is.

Love.

*May this truth  
resonate in a  
deeper way for  
you today.*

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.

## Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

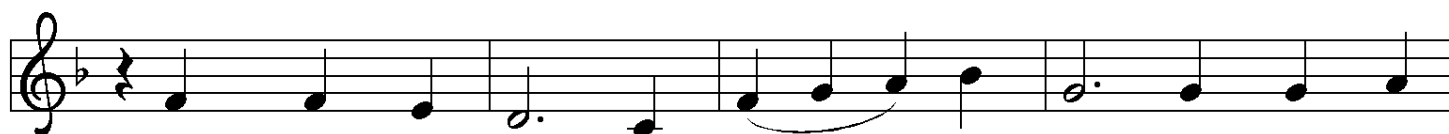
*Like the good  
shepherd of last  
week's text, this  
week's image of  
the vine is  
another  
extended  
metaphor.*

*The image of the  
vine is one of  
fruitfulness,  
intimacy, and  
love.*

[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."

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

## O Blessed Spring



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us  
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain  
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their  
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our  
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to  
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will  
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take  
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## **\*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**

*We give one another a word of peace, as a prayer and a blessing. It is a unique greeting that grounds us here.*

## **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...*



Deep gratitude  
for all that you  
do to support  
the ministries  
and programs  
of this  
congregation!

# The Meal

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

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!

## **\*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** *O Blessed Spring* setting by James Biery

*I Am The Vine*

Choir

words and music by C. Harry Causey

### **\*Prayer after Communion**

L: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen.**

*This portion of  
worship is meant  
to turn our  
hearts out  
towards our  
neighbors and  
world in need.*

*We head out of  
worship into the  
mission field...to  
love others as we  
have been loved  
here. So, GO! ☺*

# **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.**

**Closing Song:** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* ELW 836  
*(printed on the next page)*

### **\*Dismissal**

**P:** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

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

**Please be seated and enjoy the postlude music**

**Postlude** *Praise the Lord with a Hymn to Joy*  
*(using Hyfrydol/Hymn to Joy)*

Michael Cox



## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

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## **With thanks to our worship leaders:**

Dr. Moses Penumaka, *Guest Pastor*  
Todd Hauschildt, *Head Usher*  
Julie Skare, *Reader*  
Carol Bierach, *Altar Guild*  
Lisa & Jim LeSage, *Coffee Hosts*

## **Prince of Peace Staff**

Rev. Sara Pearson (On Sabbatical)  
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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Call to Worship written by Joanna Harader (2011) and posted on Spacious Faith. <https://spaciousfaith.com>

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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](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.

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

