

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

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



March 9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent

Today is the First
Sunday in Lent.
Welcome to a
wonderful time of
year to grow in
faith and
connections to
God & neighbor

This year at PoP,
our Lenten theme
is...Finding God in
the midst of the
extremes.

We have designed
worship,
gatherings, and
small groups that
will meet you
where you are!
Maybe you want
some joy in the
form of
socializing.
Maybe you are
eager to get your
resistance and
justice on? Maybe
you are seeking
peace...whatever it
is that you need,
we hopefully have
a connection point
for you.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

Call to Worship

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor? How can I help?

What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn.

May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

Anthem *Question the Beauty*

Michael Touchi

adapted from a text of St. Augustine of Hippo (b. 345 AD)

Question the beauty,

the beauty of the Earth,

the beauty of the sky and the air all about you.

Question the order of the stars,

the sun whose brightness lights the day!

the moon whose splendor softens the dark,

the darkness of the night.

“Behold and see. Behold,” they’ll say. “We are beautiful!”

Question all those who dwell in the ocean,

all the creatures of the sea,

all who roam about the Earth.

Question all those who soar through the air

and touch the stars in the night-sky,

the spirit hidden made manifest, all seen,

All things unseen that rule the night,

Question the beauty of all!

“Behold and see. Behold,” they’ll say. “We are beautiful!”

And their beauty, a profession of God.

Welcome

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

***Confession & Forgiveness**

Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but you and I know that is often easier said than done.

Fortunately for us, prayer can be a tool for transformation.

When we are honest before God and each other, we open the door to growth and change.

So join me in the prayer of confession. Join me now, so that tomorrow, we might be even better at loving our neighbors as ourselves. Let us pray:
Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

Family of faith, When we set limits on love, God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors, God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm, God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone that could separate us from the love of God. This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gathering Hymn *I Want Jesus to Walk with me

(Printed on the next page)

Prayer of the Day

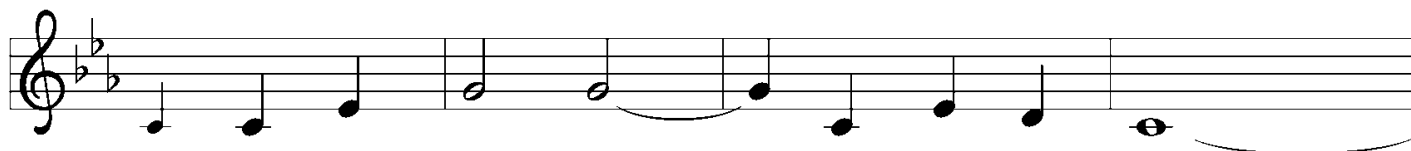
Gracious God, We love to ask you questions. We love to throw our wonderings at the sky, to bring our curiosity to your feet, to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long.

But when the answers come, we don't always like what we hear.

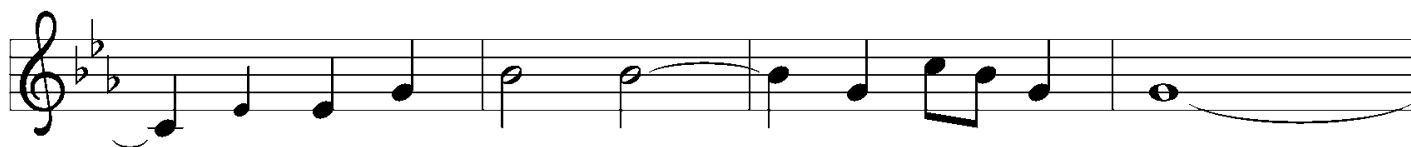
Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening, and make room in our spirits for your Word to land.

With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen. Amen.

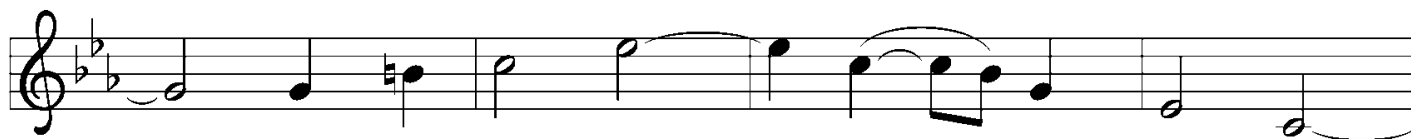
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



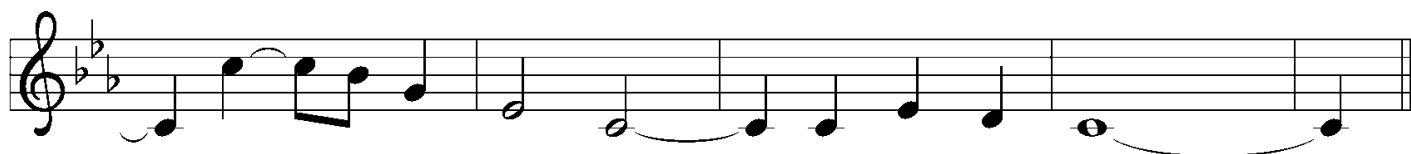
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

The Word

*Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Kid's Message

Drew Ajer

Sermon

Pastor Sara

*Song of the Day *When We Are Tested*

(printed on the next page)

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Affirmation of Faith

Church, if God asked you, “Who is your neighbor?”
what would you say?

We would say,
every child, every person,
every weeping willow,
and every morning lark.

Every freckled face,
every wrinkled pair of hands,
every tail-wagging dog,
and every crisp ripe apple.

We would say, we are connected—
to one another, to all of God’s creation.
There are no strangers in God’s house.

We are all family here.

I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said,
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your strength,
with all your mind,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

Prayers of the People

We join together in praying as a church body. Our prayers are lengthy today, so feel free to stand or sit depending on your comfort.

L: God of grace, **C:** **Hear our prayer.**

***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...*



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, citizenship, ability, political affiliation, or faith background.

*Great Thanksgiving

Hymnal Page 107

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your heart. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

S108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In a time of divisiveness and anger, we come to the table in unity, and in hoped for unity. It is a moment of peace & encouragement that can buoy our spirits for the living of these days.

Please know that you are welcome at this table!

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 ushers know and we can bring you communion.

Dear ones,
remember we have
worship on
Wednesday! If you
know someone
looking for a little
community and a
good meal, invite
them! Worship this
Lent will feature
the faith stories of
4 of our members.
And very accessible
worship style that
anyone of any faith
can connect with.

Remember also, to
stop by the narthex
sign up sheets and
book cart for
resources to enliven
your Lent!

***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.**

Communion Music *Almain*

William Byrd

The Sending

Announcements

***Blessing**

The God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***Sending Song** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*
(Printed on the next page)

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God. We will!

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude music

Postlude *Hymne à Sainte Cécile*

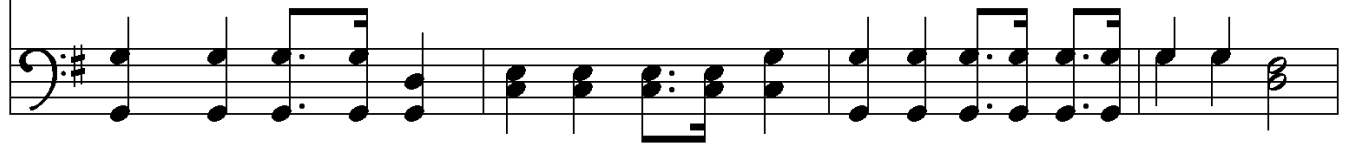
Charles Gounod

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



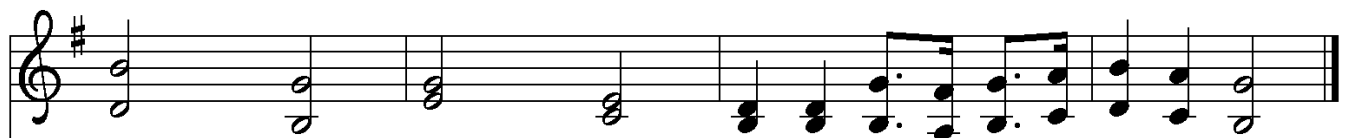
Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

With thanks to our worship leaders:

Dave Birdsall, Head Usher

Cammie Chen, Reader

David L. & Ethan W., Sound & Video Techs

Maria Jorgenson & Yildiray Hazir, Coffee Host

Prince of Peace Staff

Rev. Sara Pearson, Pastor

Drew Ajer, Director of Youth and Service

Anne Hess, Office Manager

Katie Hoffman, Office Associate

Barbara Day Turner, Director of Music

Michael Touchi, Pianist/Organist

Kerry Lewis, Music Staff Associate

Licenses:

Christian Copyright Solutions

License #12833 Song Use and Streaming

CCLI License # 1772348

Welcome Visitors!

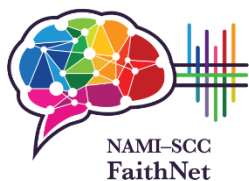
We are so glad you joined us! Please use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate.

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.



[namisantaclara.org/
classes/faith-net-2](http://namisantaclara.org/classes/faith-net-2)

