Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga

21st Sunday After Pentecost
Oct 18, 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.

May this time and space be a holy encounter.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Gathering

Prelude *Choral Dorian* Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Welcome

***Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

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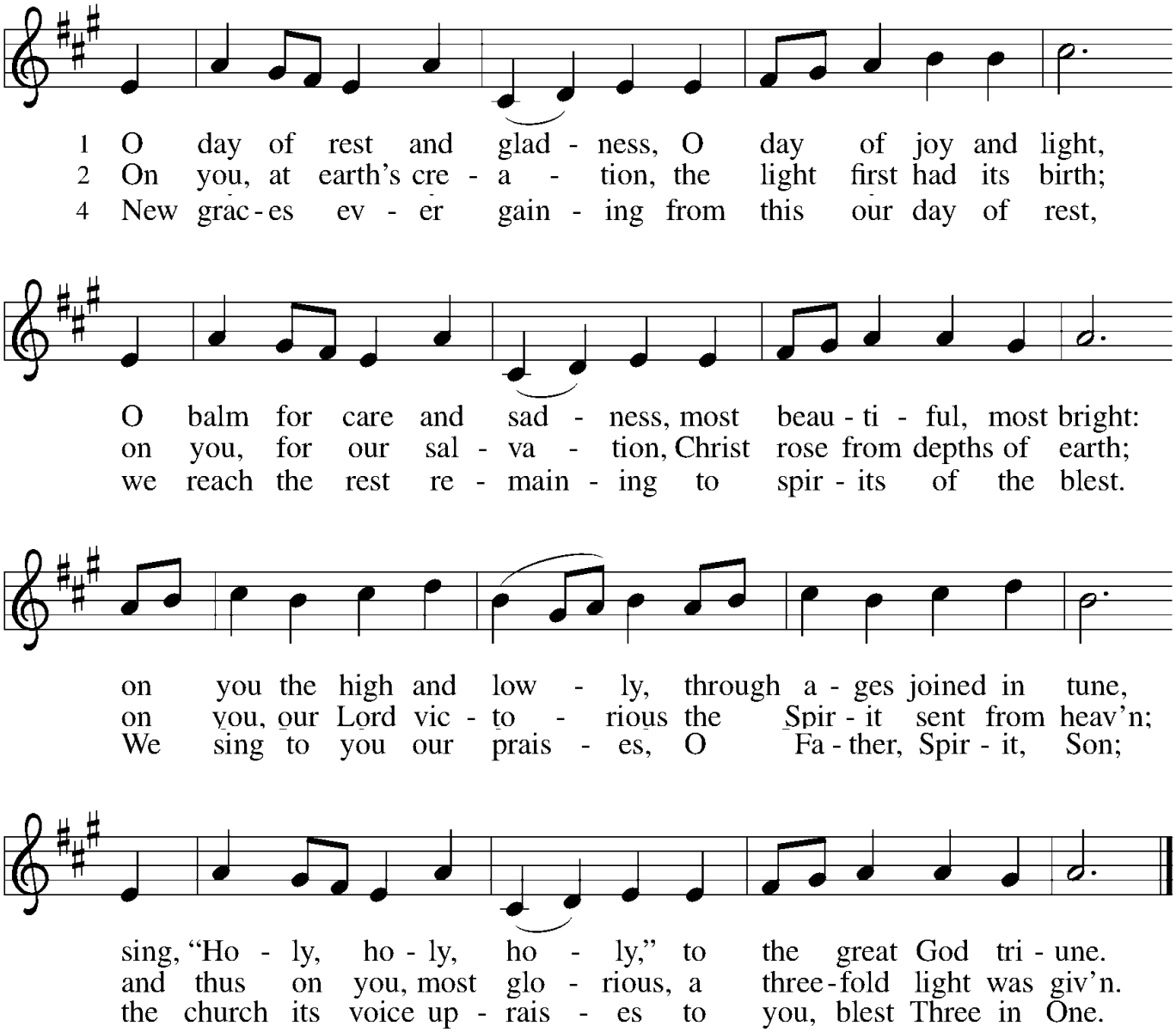
O Day of Rest and Gladness

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

*Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, **raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Word

First Reading — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our
prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus
Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has
chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word
only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as
you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.
6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of
persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, 7 so that
you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in
Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become
known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For they report about
us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God
from idols to serve a living and true God 10 and to wait for his Son from
heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the
coming wrath.

***Gospel Reading** **Matthew 22:15-22**

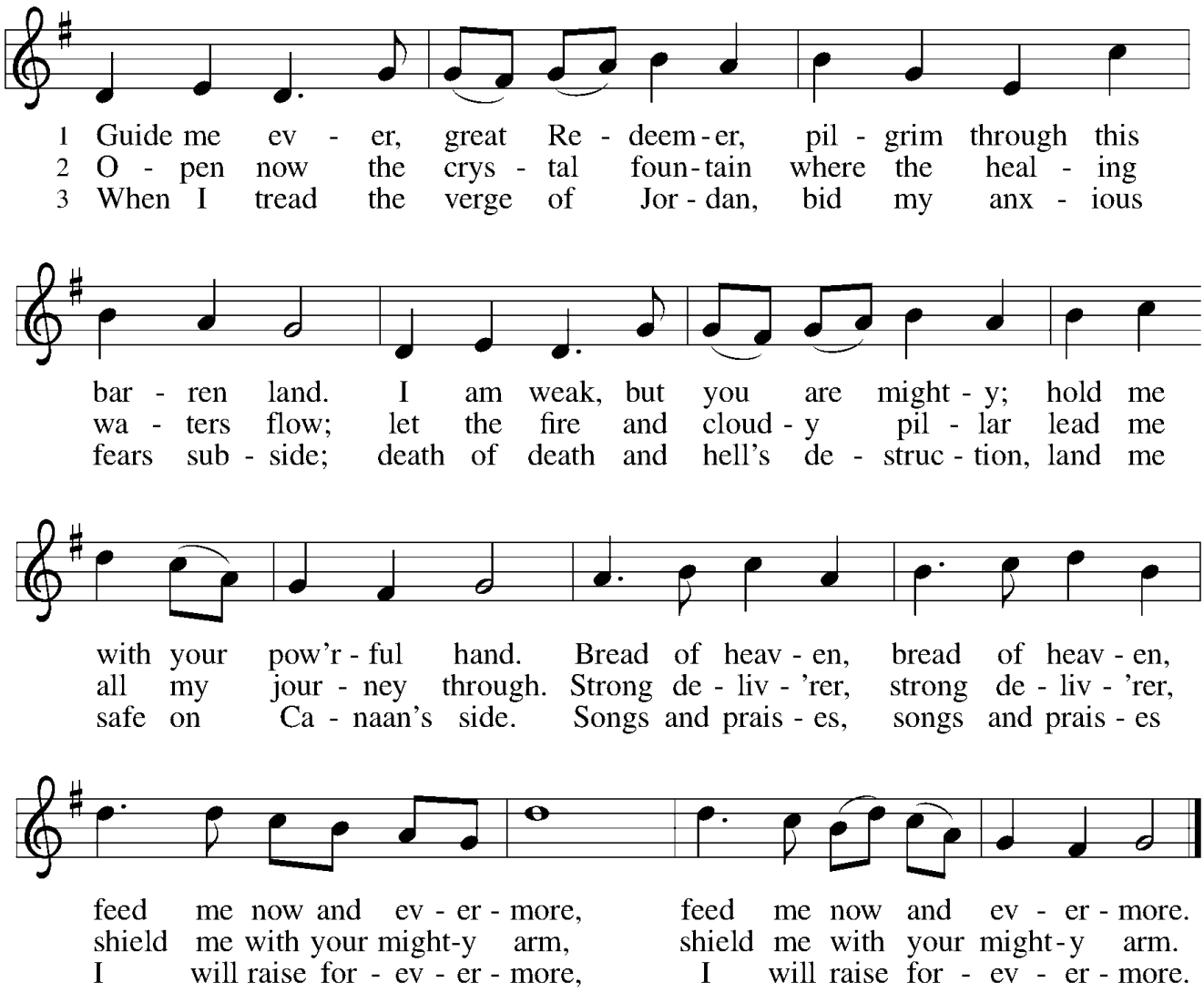
15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So
they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher,
we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance
with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people
with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to
Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you
putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the
tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose
head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to
them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God
the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed,
and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Sermon Veronica Robb

Sermon Pr. Rod Seeger

*Hymn of the Day Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

*Prayers of the People

P: Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

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!

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The Meal

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..

*Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed…

*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.*

Communion Music *Take My Life, and Let It Be* H.A. César Malan; setting by Wilbur Held

Anthem *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* J.W. Johnson & J.R. Johnson, arr. Ed Lojeski

The Sending

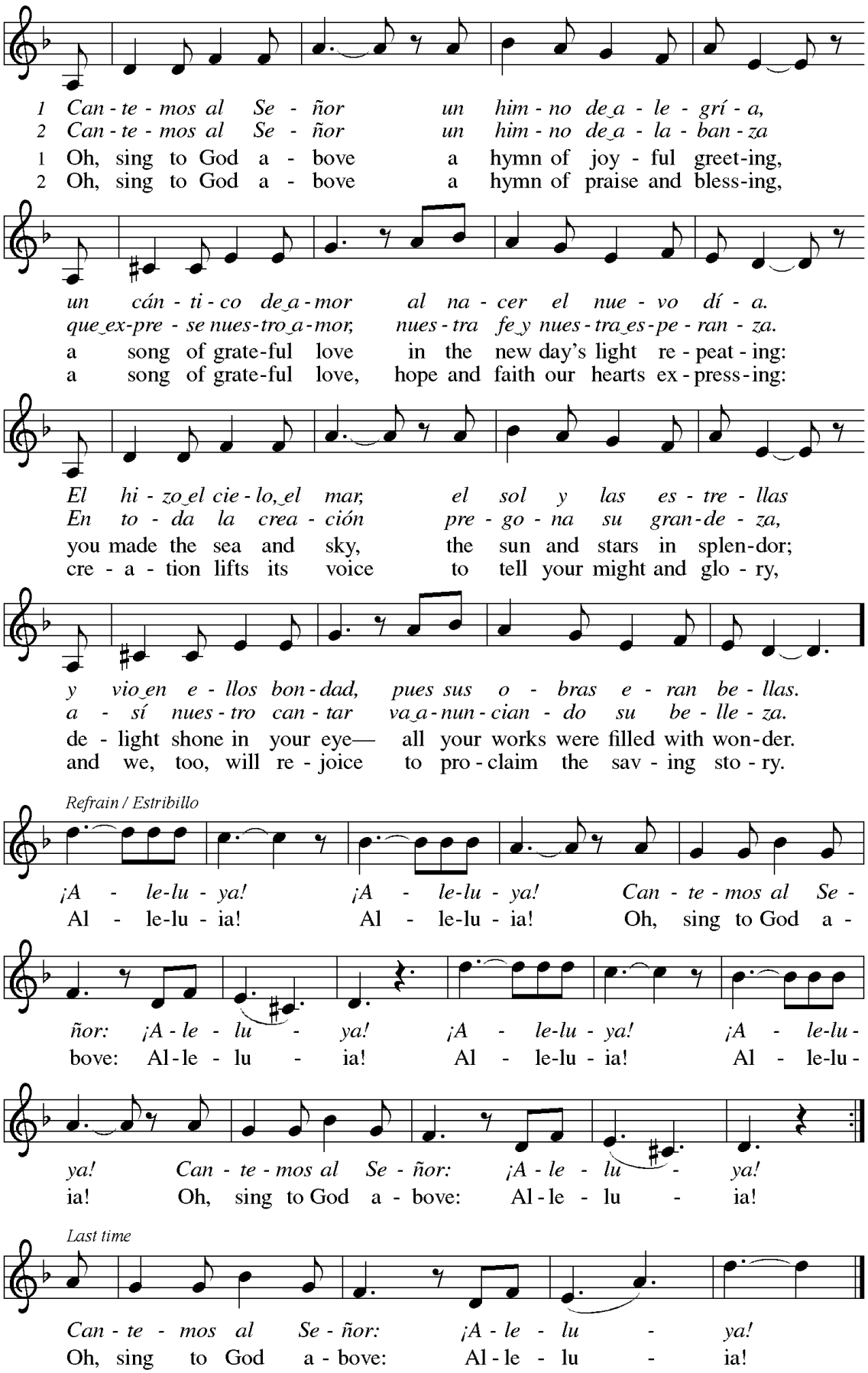
Announcements

*Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn**

Oh, Sing to God Above

Cantemos al Señor

Text: Carlos Rosas, b. 1939; tr. *With One Voice*
Music: ROSAS, Carlos Rosas
Spanish text and music © 1976 Resource Publications, Inc.
English text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Chorale-Prelude on "Now Thank We All Our God"*
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Thanks to our worship participants:
Tech Team: Ethan W., David L., Leila S.
Guest Preacher: Pr. Rod Seeger
Guest Vocalist: Juanita Harris
Ushers: Todd H.
Reader: Dave B.
Altar Guild: Carol B. & Dave B.
Coffee Hosts: Dori & Rick R.

Prince of Peace Staff
Anne Hess, *Office Administrator*
Veronica Robb, *Dir. Youth & Family Services*
Barbara Day Turner, *Music Director Emerita*
Daniel Hughes, *Interim Choir Director*
Michael Touchi, *Organist*
Katie Hoffman, *Office Associate*
Kerry Lewis, *Music Staff Associate*

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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. Prince of Peace is a congregation in the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. PoP is also a member of NAMI-FaithNet, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.

We are proud to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation, publicly affirming our commitment to both racial equity and being a welcoming community of faith for LGBTQIA+ people and their families.

PRINCE of PEACE
Celebrate. Share. Strengthen. Serve.
propeace.org

Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed
spselca.net

ELCA
elca.org

NAMI-SCC FaithNet
namisantaclara.org/classes/faith-net-2

RECONCILING IN CHRIST
reconcilingworks.org