Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga

16th Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 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 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Jamaican folk tune; setting by Mark Sedio

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.

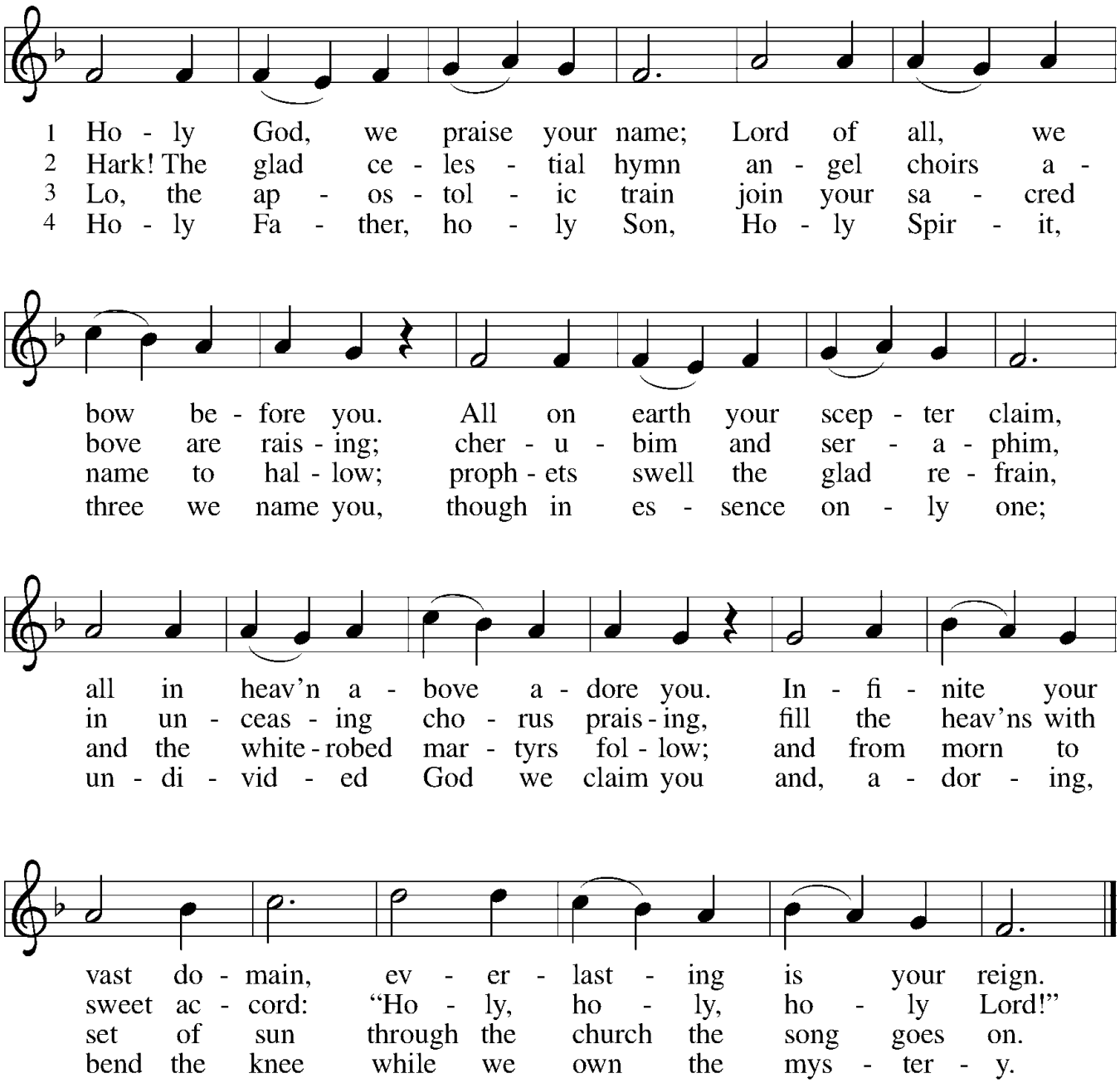
Silence is kept for reflection.

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** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name (next page)*

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900
Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

*Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, **merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Word

First Reading — Romans 14:1-12

1 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of
quarreling over opinions. 2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak
eat only vegetables. 3 Those who eat must not despise those who abstain,
and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God
has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another?
It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld,
for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all
days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6 Those who
observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the
Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for
the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we
live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether
we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died
and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do
you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the
judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

12 So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

*Gospel Reading — Matthew 18:15-20

21 Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against
me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to
him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

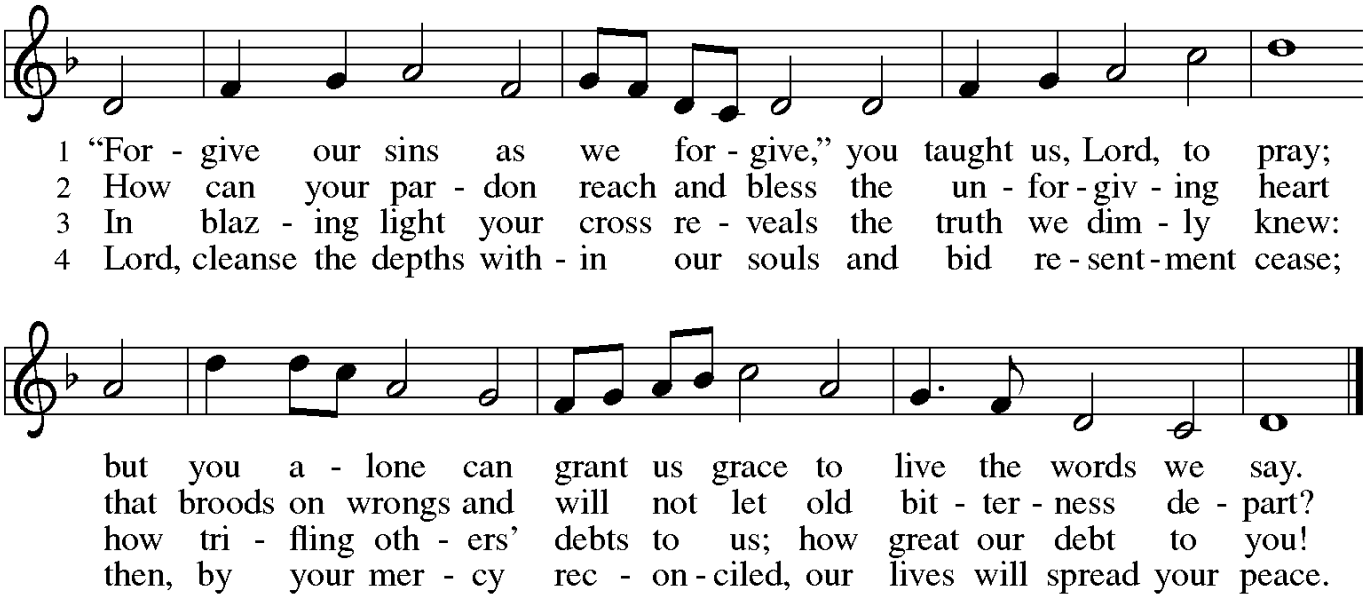
23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the
reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to
him, 25 and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together
with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be
made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience

with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord
of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same
slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a
hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you
owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have
patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and
threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves
saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and
reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned
him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because
you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow
slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to
be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father
will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or
sister from your heart."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Sermon & Backpack Blessing Veronica Robb

Sermon Meagan Kim

***Hymn of the Day** Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

*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!

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…

*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.*

Anthem *Blessed Be the King* Michael Barrett

Communion Music *Folk Tune* Percy Whitlock

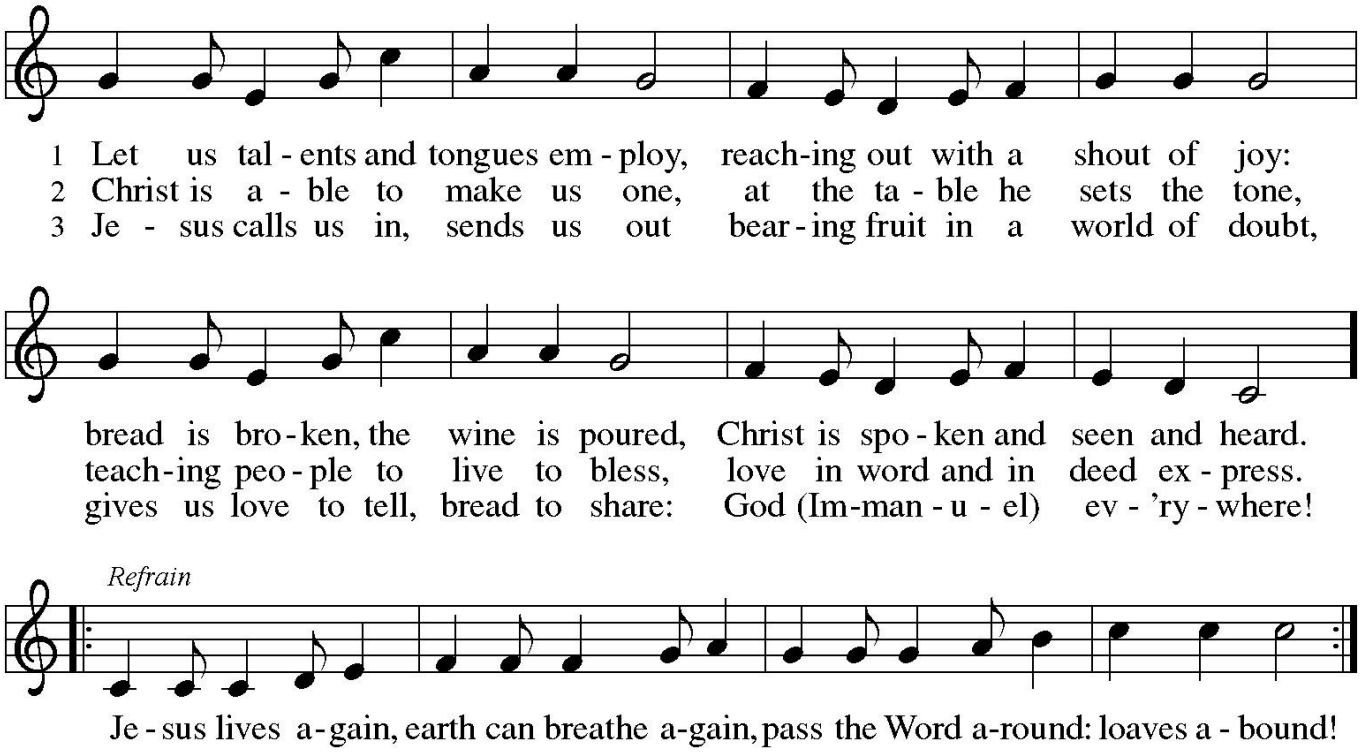
The Sending

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 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
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Dismissal

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

Postlude *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*

trad. Spiritual; setting by Richard Elliott

Thanks to our worship participants:

Tech Team: Ethan W., David L., Leila S.
Guest Preacher: Meagan Kim
Ushers: Todd H.
Reader: Connie C.
Altar Guild: Carol B. & Dave B.
Coffee Host: Theresa & Satish R.

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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

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.org

NAMI–SCC
FaithNet

namisantaclara.org/classes/faith-net-2

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

reconcilingworks.org