Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga

17th Sunday After Pentecost
September 20, 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 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Early American tune; setting by Gilbert M. Martin

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** *The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing*

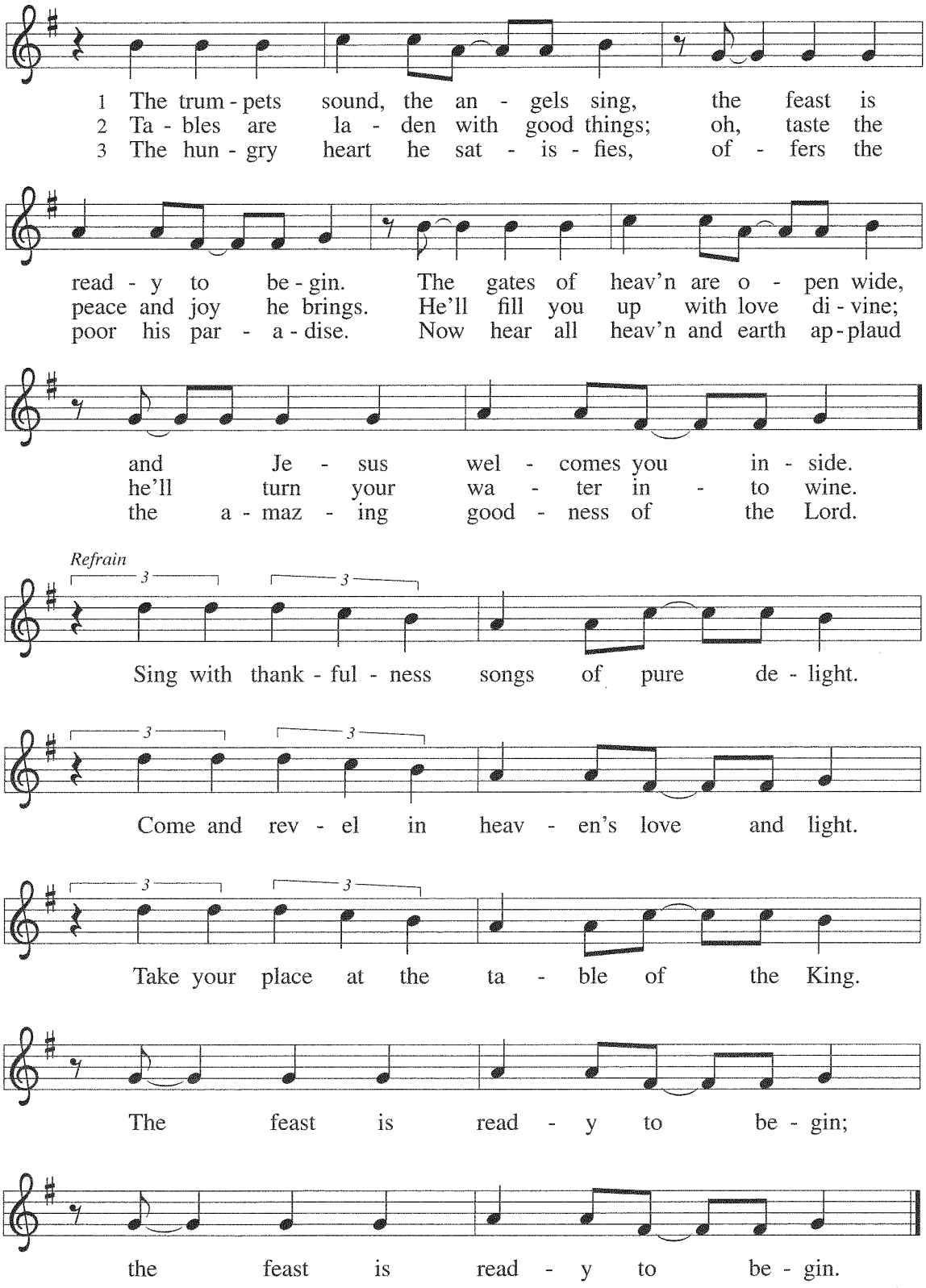
(next page)

GATHERING

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

531

The Feast Is Ready



***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

First Reading — Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

10 When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from
their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said
he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He
prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still
in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I
knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding
in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 3 And now, O Lord, please
take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And
the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out of the
city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He
sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

6 The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to
give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was
very happy about the bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God
appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the
sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the
head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said,
"It is better for me to die than to live."

9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the
bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." 10 Then the Lord said, "You
are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you
did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And
should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are
more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their
right hand from their left and also many animals?"

*Gospel Reading — Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner
who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After
agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his
vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing
idle in the marketplace, 4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the
vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he

went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

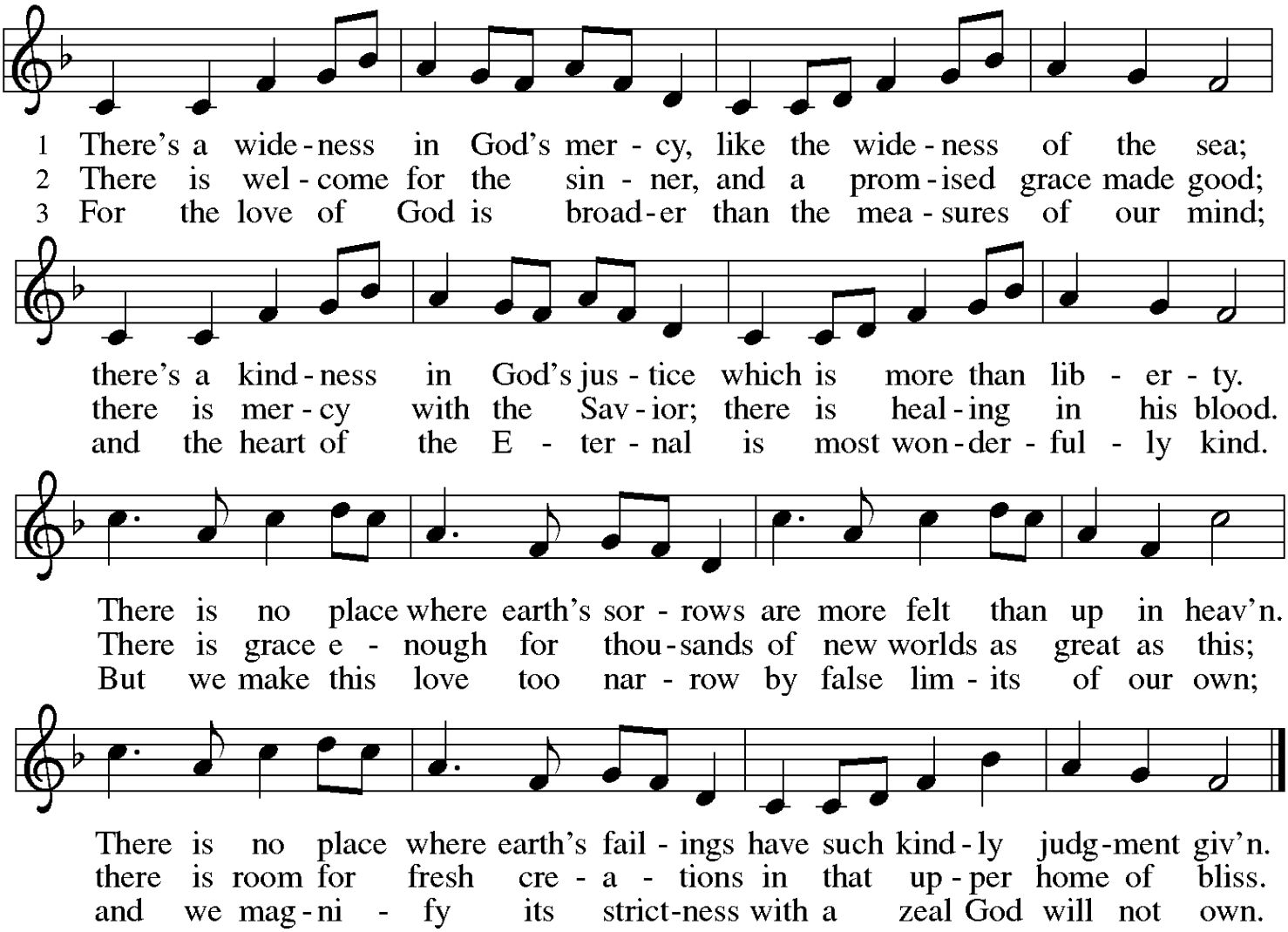
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Sermon Veronica Robb

Sermon Christa Garcia

***Hymn of the Day** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (next page)*

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

*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 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*
BEACH SPRING, setting by David Maxwell

Anthem *Alleluia, Hosanna* Daniel Hughes

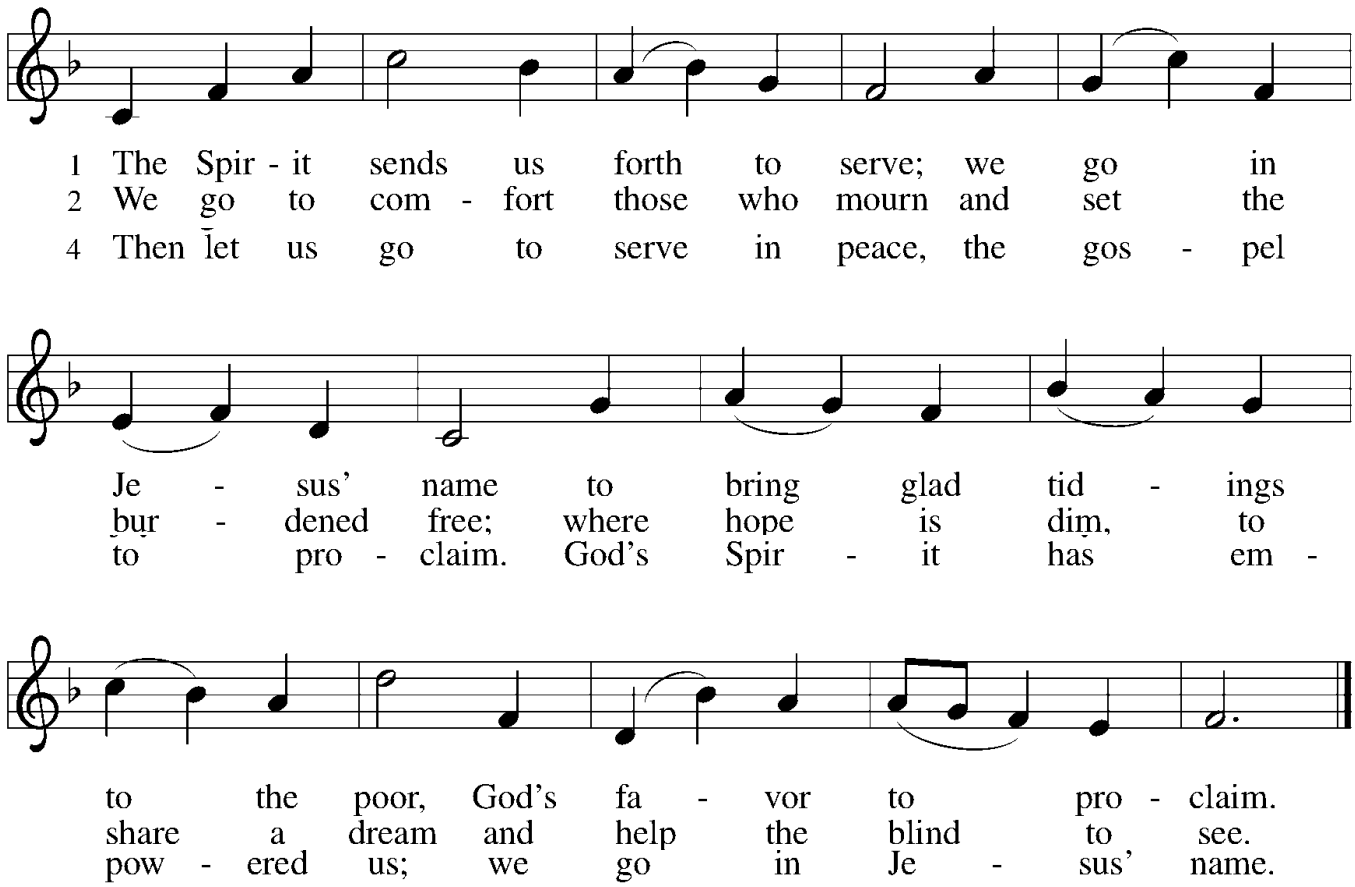
The Sending

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 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
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Dismissal

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

Postlude *Toccata in Seven* John Rutter

Thanks to our worship participants:
Tech Team: Ethan W., David L., Leila S.
Guest Preacher: Christa Garcia
Guest Presider: Martha Butzier
Ushers: Todd H.
Reader: Susie C.
Altar Guild: Carol B. & Dave B.
Coffee Host: Lois L. & Erika G.

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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