

EASTER 5

**Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church
Howell, MI 48843
(517) 546-5265**

MAY 2, 2021

**2515 W. Grand River Ave
Pastor Mark Franck
www.howellprinceofpeace.org**

WELCOME!

If you are a friend who's been here before, welcome back. If you are a first-time visitor, welcome! We'd appreciate it if you would leave your name and address in our guest book located in the entry way. Children's bulletins and crayons are available on the counter beneath the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. If you need to take your child out during the service, you can hear and see the church service in our cry room area located between our worship space and the fellowship hall. If we can serve you in any way, please let us know God bless your worship!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

AS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, OUR MISSION IS TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GOSPEL OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST, NURTURE BELIEVERS, AND EQUIP THEM FOR LIVES OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE, ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

THE LORD'S SUPPER – Out of obedience to the command of our Lord and as an expression of Christian love for everyone concerned, we practice close communion. We invite all who are communicant members of Prince of Peace or visitors who belong to our W.E.L.S. fellowship to receive the Lord's Supper with us. **If you are not a communicant member of a Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Church or belong to a**

different fellowship, faith, or even a different Lutheran church body, we ask that you please do not commune.

In making this request, we are not implying that you are not a Christian. God's Word teaches us to regard Communion as an outward expression of unity in all areas of faith. (1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 16:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:17.) God's Word warns us that any communicant who does not recognize that the body and blood of Christ really are present in the Sacrament brings judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Scripture also requires each communicant to examine himself (1 Corinthians 11:28) before receiving the Lord's body and blood together with the bread and wine.

We thank you for your cooperation in respecting our practice of closed communion. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Franck after the service.

The time before worship begins is a sacred time for meditation, prayer, and worship preparation. As we gather in the sanctuary, let's quietly reflect on God's blessings and direction in the Scripture readings included in the worship folder.

ORDER OF WORSHIP: Worship Folder

ORGANIST: Allison Franck

HYMNS: 149, 152, 385, 309, 491

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 149: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

**1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n today!” Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, O heav’ns, and earth, reply.**

**2 Love’s redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo, our sun’s eclipse is o’er; Lo, he sets in blood no more.**

**3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids his rise; Christ has opened paradise.**

**4 Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save; Where your victory, O grave?**

**5 Soar we now where Christ has led, Foll’wing our exalted head.
Made like him, like him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!**

**6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n! Praise to you by both be giv’n!
God has now fulfilled his Word; Praise the resurrected Lord!**

PRAYER

Pastor: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Congregation: Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

Congregation Sings (Hymn 152)

2. I know that my Redeemer lives:

What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead;

He lives, my ever-living Head!

**3. He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me
above. He lives, my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.**

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Sings (Hymn 152)

**5. He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.**

**8. He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." 30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. 31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was

taken from the earth." 34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

THE PSALM: Psalm 67

This psalm is a prayer for God's blessing on us. It is also a mission prayer which asks God to reap the harvest of praise from all the nations.

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

**CONGREGATION: May the peoples praise you, O God; may
All the peoples praise you.**

Pastor: May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

**CONGREGATION: May the peoples praise you, O God; may
all the peoples praise you.**

Pastor: Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

CONGREGATION: God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:18-24

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

HYMN 385: Chief of Sinners Though I Be

**1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die,
As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine!**

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,

**Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity,
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
--Found me when I sought him not.**

**3 Only Jesus can impart Comfort to a wounded heart:
Peace that flows from sin for-giv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

**4 Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.
All my wants to him are known; All my sorrows are his own.
Safe with him in earthly strife, I await the heav'nly life.**

**5 Strengthen me, O gracious Lord, By your Spirit and your word.
When my way-ward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

OUR MEDITATION: John 15:1-8

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Good News For Branches!

1 Jesus is the true vine.

What does Jesus want to assure us of through his illustration?

Verse 5

Verse 3

What is the warning Jesus issues through his illustration?

Verses 4-5

2 The Father is our gardener.

What does he want for us?

Verses 2 and 8

Is this bad news for us branches?

Verses 2 and 6

3 Let's be branches of the true vine.

What does it mean to remain in him?

Verses 3-5 and 7

What does it mean to remain in him?

Verses 7-8

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

The offering will be received as you are ushered out after the service in the fellowship hall so that offering plates are not passed. The offering plate is located next to the bulletin table in the fellowship hall.

PRAYER/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.

THE SACRAMENT

HYMN 309: Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

**1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.**

**2 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'n-ly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.**

**3 Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.**

**Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.**

SILENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I receive the precious food of your life Giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others.

LORD'S SUPPER CONSECRATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Our communion distribution practice will be quite different for the time being. We are using individually packaged communion cups and wafers, which you picked up with your bulletin in the fellowship hall. You will not be ushered forward to the communion rail. Instead, Pastor will consecrate and bless the reception of the body and blood of Christ from the altar area. Our communicants will open and receive the bread/body and wine/blood of Christ while remaining seated.

SILENT PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

PRAYER

BLESSING

HYMN 491: O Master of the Loving Heart

**1 O Master of the loving heart, The friend of all in need,
We pray that we may be like you in thought and word and deed.**

**2 Your days were full of kindly acts; Your speech was true and plain;
Of those who ever sought you, Lord, None came to you in vain.**

**3 Your face was warm with sympathy;
Your hand God's strength revealed;
Who saw your face or felt your touch Were comforted and healed.**

**4 Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord, So joyous, free, and true,
That all your children, ev'rywhere, Be drawn by us to you.**

Announcements

1. Bible Hour meets after worship this morning.
In adult Bible hour we continue our study of Proverbs and renew our focus on outreach as we continue the Bible Study "One By One" Part 4 – A One by One Approach to Growing the Church. Join us!

2. Confirmation meets on Monday, May 3rd, 3:30-5:00 pm.

3. Online Bible Class Continues.

The Format:

I send out weekly study guides in a congregational email on Mondays. You have an opportunity to work through the study guides at home.

I post an online video in which I work through the weekly study guide on Wednesdays. This video is sent out as a congregational email.

This week, we continue our study of John's epistles.

4. Thursday morning Bible class meets at 10:00 am. We are continuing our study of Joshua. Join us!

5. The new Christian Worship Hymnal will be released this Advent Season. If you would like to learn more about this new hymnal, we have booklets entitled "Christian Worship Preview" on the counter beneath the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. You can also go to the hymnal website: **christianworship.com**.