

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA**

[propeace.org](http://propeace.org)

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



**May 5, 2024**  
**Sixth Sunday in Easter**

*Welcome!*

Everything you need for worship is included in this bulletin.

Spanish language bulletins are blue.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; Psalm 98:1

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

[propeace.org](http://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**

**Prelude** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. Phillip Keveren

## **Welcome**

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

## **\*Call to Worship**

Here today there is love, freely available to all. Not our human loving, fragile and intermittent, but God's supreme love.

**May a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, break forth into joyous songs of praise.**

Here today is love, higher than our loftiest hopes, deeper than the immensities of time and space, God's inclusive love.

**Let the seas roar their praise, and everything in them.**

**Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills sing together their happiness.**

The joy of the living Christ Jesus be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*Gathering Hymn** *Love Astounding*

*(printed on the next page)*

# Love Astounding



1 Love as - tound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim-its fear - ful minds im-pose.  
2 Love re - ceiv-ing, Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,



Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - 'ry heart un - til it knows  
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us we be - long,



Love's trans-form-ing, heal-ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing, gen - tle grace,  
safe with - in Love's ten - der keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent call.



Love's en - dur-ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing, strong em-brace.  
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en-fold - ing all.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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## \*Prayer of the Day

**L:** The joy of the living Christ Jesus be with you all.     **C:** And also with you.

Holy and mysterious Lover of the world,

let this day be a worthy celebration of our Lord's resurrection love.

By the Easter good news, encourage us to put away our worries, and to discard our fears, that with minds open to your Spirit

we may better love you and more adequately worship your holy name. Through Christ Jesus, our living brother and Lord. **Amen!**

# The Word

What is LOVE?

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love, and be loved in return."  
- Christian -  
Moulin Rouge

"All you need is love"  
- The Beatles

"Then they sued each other and broke up."  
- Patrick N (in Bible Study)

## First Reading

1 John 5:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you

whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

**Kid's Message**

Drew Ajer

**Sermon**

Vicar Sharon

**Song of the Day** *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

This song was inspired by Louisa M. R. Stead's personal tragedy of losing her husband in a drowning accident in the late 19th century. She found solace in trusting Jesus and wrote the hymn's lyrics, which were later set to music by William J. Kirkpatrick.

*1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His word;  
Just to rest upon His promise;  
Just to know, Thus saith the Lord.*

**Refrain:**

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,  
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more.*

*2 O how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to trust His cleansing blood;  
Just in simple faith to plunge me,  
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.*

*3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just from sin and self to cease;  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.*

*4 I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that Thou art with me,  
Wilt be with me to the end.*

*This week,  
instead of the  
typical  
Prayers of  
Intercession,  
we are  
focusing this  
time on the  
ways in which  
we can love  
others well.*

## **\*Prayers of Commitment**

Holy God, may we hear your voice  
In the stillness of night, in clatter of day  
You call us, and we respond, Here I am!

May we follow you and  
**May we love as you love.**

Holy One, through trials and turbulence  
Make us steady, your hands

Holding strong the fragile and weak  
May we love as you love.

Gracious God, may the fruits of our lives  
be food for the hungry, bread  
clothing, shelter, fire, water, Word

**May we love as you love.**

God of justice, remove the barriers

Of our lives that keep us from

One another, barriers we construct

Based on skin color, religion, or gender

May we hear, and follow, graciously.

**May we love as you love.**

Loving God, take this day our fears our

Worries, distractions, and all

Turn them into grace and mercy,

And, following the example of Martin Luther King, Jr.

and all your Saints,

**May we love as you love. Amen.**

## **\*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...*



*Deep gratitude  
for all that you  
do to support  
the ministries  
and programs  
of this  
congregation!*

# The Meal

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

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 usher know and we can bring you communion!

## **\*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, sexual orientation, ability, or faith background.*

### **\*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, the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Communion Music**

Choir

*This portion of  
worship is meant  
to turn our  
hearts out  
towards our  
neighbors and  
world in need.*

*We head out of  
worship into the  
mission field...to  
love others as we  
have been loved  
here. So, GO! ☺*

# **The Sending**

## **Announcements**

### **\*Blessing**

Go now, and bear fruit for God, fruit that will last.

As Christ has loved you, so love one another,  
and abide always in God is love,  
that your joy may be complete.

And may God give you all you ask for in Christ's name;  
May Christ Jesus reveal to you God's ways and call you his  
friends;

And may the Holy Spirit confirm the truth within you and make  
your joy complete. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Closing Song:** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

*(printed on the next page)*

### **\*Dismissal**

Christ sends us forth:

Keep my commandments, abide in my love.

**We will go forth in peace and justice!**

Love one another, go forth to serve:

**We will go forth in love!**

Share in my mission, bear fruit that will last:

**We will go forth as your friends, rejoicing!**

Let us go forth in peace to witness to our community and world,  
that Christ is alive!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Please be seated and enjoy the postlude music**

**Postlude** *Sortie on "¡Ay Jalisco, no te rajes!"*

music of Manuel Esperón, arr. Michael Touchi



# Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

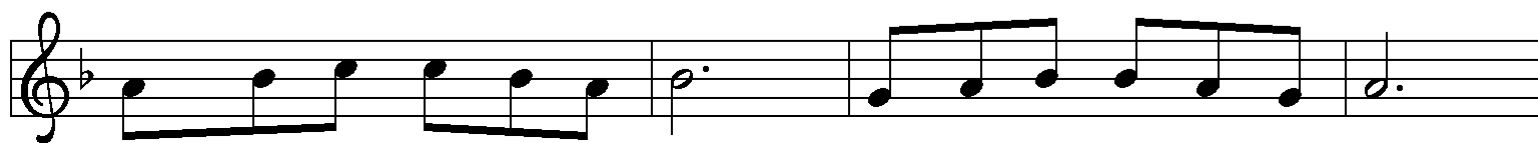
*Refrain*



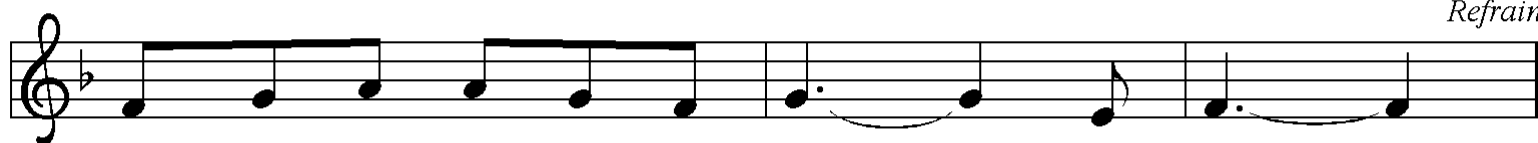
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- |   |                                    |                                       |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kneels at the feet of his friends, | si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  |
| 2 | Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor,  | var - ied in col - or and race,       |
| 3 | These are the ones we will serve,  | these are the ones we will love;      |
| 4 | Kneel at the feet of our friends,  | si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet: |



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

*Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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## **With thanks to our worship leaders:**

Todd Hauschildt, *Head Usher*

Susan Camp, *Reader*

Carol Bierach, *Altar Guild*

Matthew F. & Yildiray H., *Coffee Hosts*

David Laudenslager, *Sound & Video*

## **Prince of Peace Staff**

Rev. Sara Pearson (On Sabbatical)

Drew Ajer, *Director of Youth and Service*

Sharon DeGraw, *Intern Pastor*

Anne Hess, *Office Manager*

Katie Hoffman, *Office Associate*

Barbara Day Turner, *Director of Music*

Michael Touchi, *Pianist/Organist*

Kerry Lewis, *Music Staff Associate*

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Prayer of Commitment:

Posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>

Blessing:

Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net

Benediction:

Friends of God: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain.

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Scan this code to connect to our hearing assistance app.



## Welcome Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us! Please drop by the welcome center and sign our guest book, or 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](http://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.

