



September 7–8, 2024

**AT THE HEART**  
Genesis 1:14-19



### MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

CONTEMPORARY  
SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 10:30 am

**House of the Lord**

**Who You Say I Am**

**Rest On Us**

**Washed by the Water**

CLASSIC | SUN 8:45 am

**O Day of Rest and Gladness**

**Goodness of God**

**Creating God, Your Fingers Trace**

**God, Whose Almighty Word**

MESSAGE: **Paul Dean**

**Communion** (all services)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Download sermon resources: [popmn.org/worship/downloads/](http://popmn.org/worship/downloads/)

**New worship formats are up and running!**

Classic | Sundays at 8:45 am

Contemporary | Saturdays at 5:30 pm and Sundays at 10:30 am

**There are more ways to Trust the Story!**

Tune in to our livestream on Sundays at 8:45 and 10:30 am, listen to our Spotify playlist and our podcast. Links at [popmn.org](http://popmn.org)

**Come sing with the Celebration Choir this season!**

Rehearse Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Contact [agiebner@popmn.org](mailto:agiebner@popmn.org)

### JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

**Join Elizabeth Circle members** for conversations about the third act in life with author Becky Blue: [popmn.org/register](http://popmn.org/register)

**Men's Ministry Breakfast | Sunday, September 8**

To celebrate the new ministry year, breakfast is FREE!

### JOIN US FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Register to participate or volunteer: [popmn.org/register](http://popmn.org/register)

### JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Your gift supports mission and ministry. Thank you!



## Connect With Us

We are here to love God and all people by being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world so that all might know that they are loved. We are an open and affirming church. We value growing a relationship with God and with each other, and showing up for people in need in this community and beyond. **Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church!**



**Connect** with Prince of Peace! Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.



Scan here to register your child for **Family Ministry**.



Scan here to make a **prayer request** or to have a member of the Spiritual Care Team contact you.

**PAPER COPIES OF THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CONNECT DESK.**

The Bible is complex and multi-layered, but it invites all of us to lean in and look closer as it reveals, story by story, who God is ... and also who we are.

From the beginning, we imagine a God that keeps speaking to us through these stories of redemption and hope. But along the way we've lost the fullness of the message. So much of the story can get lost in translation. Lost in the literal translation from Hebrew and Greek to English. Lost in different cultural contexts. Lost in repetition, lulling us into a familiarity that strips the story of its power.

It's like looking in a window. You can't always see the whole room from your vantage point. Sometimes you need a second window, or a third, in order to see into every corner. Sometimes you can never see the whole thing. It's an exploration, a discovery, that invites you to look again and again from new angles.

We are called to trust the story, turning each page with the desire to find what's been lost in translation.

In our modern western culture, **we engage with scripture by absorbing knowledge**. We focus on the nature of God, and come up with doctrines and dogmas to support what we think. We feel the need to be "right" on an intellectual level and then we hang out with people who think like we do.

But the pre-modern eastern cultures, scripture's early writers and hearers, **primarily engaged with these stories through experience**. Their focus is on the nature of the relationship with God. How does God relate to and with us in the communal sense? There is an openness to this discussion that lends itself to generations and centuries of discussion, learning and discovery. Because to have one single answer to any theological question risks making this wide God of every living thing, under the sun and beyond it, extremely small. There is room in the universe, in the everything, for a myriad of ideas.

One technique used by writers of scripture is called a **chiasm**. A chiasm is a poem or series of verses with the main point embedded in the middle. The words and structure of a chiasm points to the center.

Consider the creation story in Genesis 1. We get bogged down by the seven days of creation. Our western questions about the creation might sound like this: Was it a literal seven days? How long were the days? What about dinosaurs? Etc. And we'd argue about from what we would call an intellectual or scientific point of view.

But someone from a pre-modern eastern culture would have experienced that passage differently. They would see that there is a center to the number seven. If you have seven days, the middle one is number four. At the heart of this passage, at its center, is the fourth day.

And on the fourth day, God creates time. Sun and moon, days and nights, seasons. On the fourth day, this world takes on a rhythm of waking and sleeping, a change in light, a clear indication of the passage of time. What does this mean?

- *Spend some time thinking about the rhythms of time in your life. Do you take time to rest? Not just to sleep, but to find clarity and renewed focus and purpose?*
- *Have you found time to sit and be grateful, even when you don't feel grateful? How would taking that time change the way you experience the world, and therefore the way you experience God?*
- *Do you take time to reflect on where God is guiding you? How would living with the kind of intention that only reflection can bring change the way you experience the world, and therefore the way you experience God?*
- *What changes in your life if you embrace the idea that the very heart of all creation calls for a rhythm of rest and reflection in the midst of work?*