



exactly
what i need

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, March 8, 2026

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

About Our Service

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran Worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

Series Explanation: Exactly What I Need

I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

Lent Worship Series Schedule: Exactly What I Need

Ash Wednesday (February 18): Forgiveness

February 22: A Champion

March 1: Faith

March 8: Water

March 15: Sight

March 22: Life



Today's Focus: Water

I recognize my deep spiritual thirst. I long for a good relationship with God and for everlasting life. I am tempted to satisfy that deep thirst with worldly things, a strategy doomed to failure. I realize that my thirst is satisfied only by the one who said, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst." Jesus meets my greatest need.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Nate Crowder

Ensemble: Sack Sickman, Ella Erdmann, Emma Bohme, Nathaniel Groth, Liesel Fiebke

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE SERVICE

Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to
2 Hith - er - to thy love has blessed me, thou hast drawn me
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -



sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
to this place; and I know thy hand will lead me
strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,



call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
safe - ly home by thy good grace. Je - sus sought me when a
bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee: prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise his
stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God; he, to
feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my



name, I'm fixed up - on it, name of God's re - deem - ing love.
res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

When God's children rebel against him and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Luke 15:10

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

**In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.**

2 Corinthians
5:21-6:2

Response

Today Your Mercy Calls Us st. 1



To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
**Merciful Father in heaven,
 I am altogether sinful from birth.
 In countless ways I have sinned against you
 and do not deserve to be called your child.
 But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:
 is our Father's home.
 Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.
 Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Silence for reflection

Our Father assures all who approach his throne of grace that none will be turned away. He swore through his prophets of long ago:
**"I will forgive their wickedness
 and will remember their sins no more.**

Jeremiah 31:34

The use of the keys of absolution is that special right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through Jesus. See John 20:21-23.

God's promise of forgiveness was fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. As our great high priest, he was tempted as we are, yet was without sin. In his death on the cross, he redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Since there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, I say to you what God says, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in
 shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.
 The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,
 a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For hearts set free from the condemnation of the law, for minds governed by the Spirit and not the flesh, and for lives devoted to what pleases God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that gain is loss apart from Christ and loss is gain in Christ and for perseverance to press on to take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

O all-em-brac-ing Mer-cy, O ev-er-o-pen Door,
what should we do with-out you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem a-gainst us, to drive us to de-spair,
we know one gate is o-pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

Having received the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, we now make our requests on the basis of his mercy.

Throughout the service, titles like "Kyrie refer to the Latin names for the ancient text of the church's liturgy.



The Word

Prayer

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

In his grace,
God gives
undeserving
people water
from a stone.

¹The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?”

³But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

⁴Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God's love is poured into my heart like living water.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

John 4:13,14



Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."

Normally, we prepare to hear the words and works of Jesus by standing and singing "Alleluia" – praise the Lord.

During Lent, "alleluias" are omitted.

Refrain

Gospel

John 4:5–26

Jesus calls a Samaritan woman to faith, providing living water for her thirsty soul.

⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

389 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778, alt.

Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 4:5–26

Apostles' Creed

Credo

Public
confession is
faith's
response to
God's saving
Word.
Christians
composed the
Apostle's
Creed in the
fourth century
to defend the
Bible's
teachings that
both Jesus
Christ and the
Holy Spirit are
true God,
equal to the
Father in one
eternal,
undivided
Trinity.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

Offering

The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!

Members and visitors, kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.



Prayer of the Church

Please stand. The pastor will speak the prayer of the church and the congregation will join to say the Lord's 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.

Please be seated.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

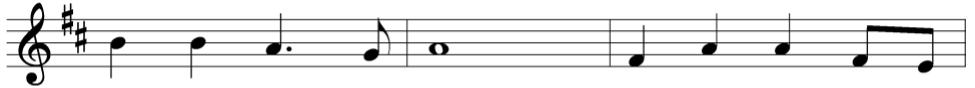
Numbers 6:22-27

As the Deer

Psalm 42



1 As the deer pants_ for the wa - ter, so my
2 You're my friend, and_ you're my broth - er, e - ven
3 I want you more than gold or sil - ver, on - ly



soul longs af - ter you; you a - lone are my
though you are a King. I love you more than
you can sat - is - fy. You a - lone are the



heart's de - sire_ and I long to wor - ship you.
an - y oth - er, so much more than an - y - thing.
real joy giv - er and the ap - ple of my eye.

Refrain



You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a -



lone may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my



heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.

Text: Martin Nystrom

Tune: Martin Nystrom

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Announcements

Foundations of Faith

Foundations is for everyone: people interested in becoming members, those looking to build their faith, or the curious observer who wants to study the Bible without feeling obligated to join a church. This study is Bible-based and discussion-centered. Classes can be arranged to fit personal schedules.

To get plugged in or to request more information, contact Pastor Welch (pastor@peacehoughton.org). Childcare is available upon request.

Online Offering Option

If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.



Upcoming Events

There is a full schedule of events for both members and students alike. You can find the schedule on the table in the fellowship hall, on the app/website, or by scanning the QR code.



Midweek Lenten Services and Dinner

During the season of Lent, we will hold midweek Lenten services every Wednesday from February 18 to March 25. Dinners will be served at 5:00, and the services will start at 6:00.

If you are interested in helping to serve a meal, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
March 8	Cesar	Craig	Mary Ann	NA	Lesley/Janet	Grace
March 11 (Midweek)	Cody	Steve	Zack	NA		NA
March 15	Steve	Cody	Nate	NA	Gabriela	help needed
March 18 (Midweek)	Cody	Scott	Zack	NA		NA
March 29	Cesar	Craig	Nate	NA	Amy Hughes	help needed
April 2 (Holy Thursday)	Cody	Steve	Zack	NA	x	x
April 3 (Good Friday)	Steve	Cody	Zack	NA	x	x



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Welch's Email: pastor@peacehoughton.org

Peacehoughton.org

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.