



God Loves Sinners

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, June 21, 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.

Current Worship Series: Say it Out Loud

The Season after Pentecost features what Christ teaches, and Christians in every vocation are encouraged to say it out loud. The truths of God's word are good for the soul, useful for life, and more reliable than anything else in the world. Watch out for false teachers who come with wise sounding words and pious promises, but who do not base everything on the Word of God! Give thanks to the Lord for faithful servants in the ministry of the gospel and those who support them!

June 14: (Holy Trinity) God is Triune

June 21: God Loves Sinners

June 28: Jesus Leads Us

July 5: Keep the Faith

July 12: Love God Above All

Today's Focus: *God Loves Sinners*

They never forgot their past. Moses never forgot how he killed a man in a fit of anger. Paul never forgot how he had savaged the Church of God. Matthew never forgot how, as a tax collector for the Roman Empire, he was considered a traitor to his people.

But God forgot their past. He forgave all their sins and called them to proclaim his mercy. Christians are sinners whom God has mercifully called. Only mercy can explain why Jesus brings people to faith and promises them salvation. Only grace can explain how he calls them to serve as they are able, even in the ministry of the gospel. God loves sinners.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

575 *By Grace I'm Saved*



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; my soul, be -
2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, came down to
3 By grace! O mark this word of prom - ise when you are
4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, in trib - u -
5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; in Je - sus'



lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver at this word of
earth to bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own
by your sins op - pressed, when Sa - tan plagues your trou - bled
la - tion's fur - nace tried, by grace, de - spite all fear and
prom - ise I re - jice, for though I know my heart's con -



prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? So then this
mer - it that Je - sus died, your soul to win? No, it was
con - science, and when your heart is seek - ing rest. What rea - son
trou - ble, the Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I
di - tion, I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is



word must true re - main: by grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
grace, and grace a - lone, that brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
can - not com - pre - hend God by his grace to you did send.
help and strength se - cure if grace were not my an - chor sure?
glad, all grief has flown since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–1761, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

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

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

Therefore, it is by Christ's command and with his authority that I say to you what God says to you: In the name of Jesus † your sins are forgiven.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God.

1 John 3:1

And that is what we are! Thanks be to God!

Glory to God

Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. In response to the repentance expressed through confession and absolution, the church sings as the angels sang on Christmas night: “glory be to God on high.”

1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;

the might - y rock on which we build.
all that we are has come from you.

In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved

and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled.
now by your pow'r have been made new.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

Text: Bob Kaufflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

Tune: Bob Kaufflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

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Prayer

Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is our true Sabbath rest. Help us to keep each day holy by receiving his Word of comfort that we may find our rest in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Exodus 3:1–15

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

The LORD chooses Moses to lead the Israelites.

¹²And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Lesson

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12–17

God
demonstrates
mercy and
patience by
calling a
sinner into the
ministry.

¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 9:12,13

Alleluia. It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. Alleluia.

Speak, O Lord st. 1



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
fill in us all your pur - pos-es for your glo - ry.

For centuries in preparation for hearing the Gospel, Christians have sung or spoken "Alleluia!" and a Scripture verse reinforcing the theme of the day.

Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13

Tax collectors were considered among the worst of sinners. To demonstrate grace, Jesus called one to be his disciple.

⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. "When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

379 *Amazing Grace*

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Please stand

Nicene Creed

Credo

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene 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.

**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 truly 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.**

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.



The Sacrament

We believe what God's Word says. God's Word clearly teaches that along with the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26,28; Mk. 14:22,24; Lk. 22:19-22). God's Word also tells us that those who take Communion together are to:

1. Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are miraculously present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29),
2. Examine their hearts (1 Cor. 11:28), and
3. Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (1 Cor. 10:17).

Therefore we ask that those who have not had the opportunity to understand our Scriptural confession would speak with the pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms as the pastor approaches. It is our sincere desire to share in the blessings of the Lord's Supper with you according to the pattern Jesus himself has given in his Word.

Introduction to the Lord's Supper

Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

1 Cor. 11:28

I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper.

1 Cor. 11:29

The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ.

1 Cor. 10:16

Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body.

Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1 Cor. 10:17

Hymn

In This Holy, Blest Communion



1 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion plain and
2 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion Christ and
3 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion saints are



pre - cious gifts com - bine: bread is tru - ly
sin - ners join as one— they, the Fa - ther's
gath - ered side by side, joined to - geth - er,



Je - sus' bod - y, blood of Je - sus joins with wine.
ran - somed chil - dren, he, the Fa - ther's right - ful Son.
broth - ers, sis - ters, in one bod - y u - ni - fied,



What a bless - ing Christ is giv - ing; what a
Here the loft - y feeds the low - ly, each his
faith in Je - sus, hope of heav - en, love for

lov - ing, gra - cious host, in his sup - per
high - ly cher - ished guest; here the guilt - y
oth - ers all in - creased by the full - ness

well pro - vid - ing what his peo - ple need the most!
taste for - give - ness, here the wea - ry find their rest.
of the ban - quet, by the rich - ness of the feast.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Welsh

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Tune: Public domain

Words of Institution

The pastor speaks the words of institution according to the words of 1 Corinthians 11.

Lamb of God

John the
Baptist
declared Jesus
to be God's
Lamb, who
was offered as
a sacrifice for
sin once for
all.

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,

ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.

All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:

have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Distribution

Please be seated after the song. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction after the song.

Closing Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Hymn

Soul Finds Rest in God Alone



1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal -
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp -
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com -



va - tion; a for - tress strong a - gainst my foes, and
ta - tions; when e - vil seeks to take a hold I'll
plete - ly; with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul and



I will not be shak - en. Though lips may bless and
cling to my sal - va - tion. Though rich - es come and
he will prove his mer - cy. Though life is but a



hearts may curse, and lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll
rich - es go, don't set your heart up - on them; the
fleet - ing breath, a sigh too brief to mea - sure, my



fix my heart on right-eous-ness, I'll look to him who hears me.
fields of hope in which I sow are har-vest-ed in heav - en.
King has crushed the curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

Refrain



O praise him, hal - le - lu - jah, my de - light and my re - ward;



ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

Announcements

Foundations of Faith Class

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) or scan the QR code. 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.



Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Snacks
June 21	Steve	Cody	Mary Ann	Amy Spahn
June 28	Cody	Scott	Mary Ann	Heather
July 5	Steve	Craig	Mary Ann	Sarah
July 12	Cody	Steve	Mary Ann	Lesley/Janet

New Administrative Assistant Position

At the congregational meeting last week, we decided to hire an administrative assistant. This person will be responsible for many of the day-to-day tasks that help our church run effectively. If you are interested in learning more, there are two documents on the blue table in the entryway. One document is an overview of the position. The second is an application. The deadline to apply is July 6. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Welch.

New June Bible Study Format

Currently, all adults are invited to join our Sunday morning Bible study at 9:00 AM.

Special June Women's Fellowship Hour: Beginning June 7 through June 28, we're introducing a new Women's Fellowship Hour that will temporarily replace our regular Sunday Bible study format.

Women and Children: Join us at the parsonage for a short devotion, snacks, and meaningful fellowship while the children play. This special time is designed for all women in our congregation—whether you have children or not, you're welcome! Just walk past the campus house and follow the path to the parsonage.

Men: During the Women's Fellowship Hour, men will gather in the fellowship hall for a men's Bible study.

This four-week program offers a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our friendships while providing focused fellowship time for both men and women. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.