



Love God Above All

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, July 12, 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: *Love God Above All*

Not all love is good. It is self-destructive to love bad things. It is just as harmful to love good things in a bad order. For example, it would seem to be a good thing for a man to love his dog. But if he loves his dog more than he loves his wife, his "love" for both is disordered. For love to be healthy, it needs to be properly ordered.

Christians love the people whom God has placed into their lives. But when those people desire something that God does not desire, Christians love and serve God above all. Properly ordered love leads us to be faithful to God and his Word. We love God above all because he first loved us.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery



- 1 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, in the dawn-ing of the King,
- 2 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, he the per - fect Son of Man;
- 3 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, Christ the Lord up - on the tree;
- 4 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, slain by death the God of life;



he the theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu-man-i - ty.
in his liv - ing, in his suf - f'ring nev - er trace nor stain of sin.
in the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - to - ry.
but no grave could e'er re-strain him; praise the Lord; he is a - live!



In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come.
See the true and bet - ter Ad - am, come to save the hell-bound man.
See the price of our re-demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold,
What a fore-taste of de - liv - 'rance; how un - wa - ver - ing our hope.



Look to Christ, who con-de-scend-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us.
Christ the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law; in him we stand.
bring-ing man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un-mea-sured, love un - told.
Christ in pow - er res - ur - rect - ed as will we be when he comes.

Text: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Michael Bleeker, b. 1977

Tune: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Michael Bleeker, b. 1977

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Please stand

Invocation

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

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

Confession and Absolution

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

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

1 John 1:8

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.

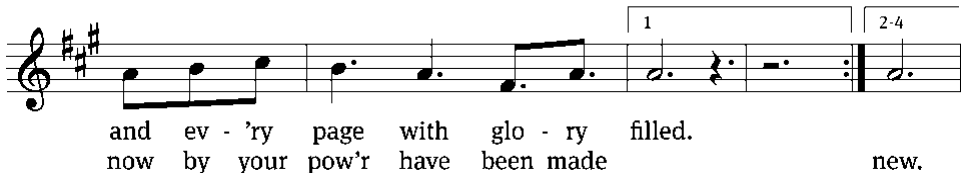
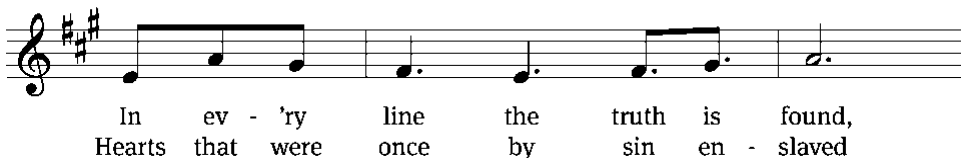
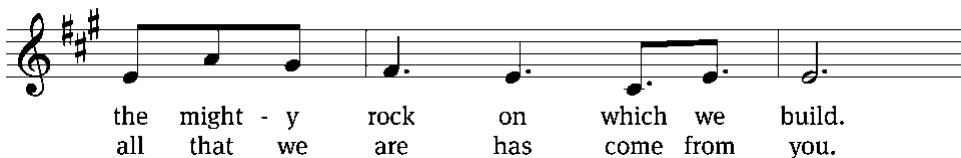
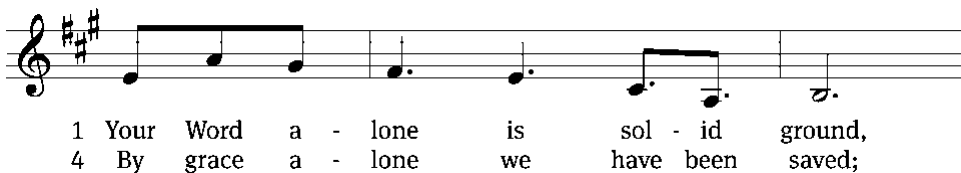
And that is what we are! Thanks be to God!

1 John 3:1

Glory to God

Contrary to the directions below, the congregation will sing the first stanza and then immediately sing the refrain.

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."



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

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

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Prayer

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; 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

The Word

First Reading

Exodus 32:15–29

¹⁵Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, “There is the sound of war in the camp.”

When we hear Aaron’s excuses, we recognize our own rationalizations.

¹⁸Moses replied:

“It is not the sound of victory,
it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear.”

¹⁹When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

²¹He said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?”

²²“Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ ²⁴So I told them, ‘Whoever has any

gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

²⁵Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

²⁶So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

²⁷Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.' " ²⁸The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. ²⁹Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:11–16

St. Paul
describes the
good fight of
faith.

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 8:34

Alleluia. Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 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 10:34–42

Jesus calls us
to love him
above all.

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn

“ ‘a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–4



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
 3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
 4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
 con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
 your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
 flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
 flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain



So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960

Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960

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Sermon

Matthew 10:34-42

Please stand

Confession of Faith

Apostle's Creed

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.

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.

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.

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

O Church, Arise



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
 win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
 merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

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
July 12	Steve	Steve	Nate	Amy Spahn
July 19	Cesar	Cody	Mary Ann	Heather
July 26	Steve	Scott	Mary Ann	Sarah
August 2	Steve	Steve	Nate	Amy Spahn



47745 Mill Rd.
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: 906-482-1602

Pastor Welch's Cell: 906-231-6835

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.