

Watch for the Final Events

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, November 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.

Children and Worship

What a blessing to have babies, toddlers, and preschoolers with us in worship! We welcome all ages! During the service we have a special message for young children. Parents are welcome to accompany their child up front for this message, if their child is bashful. We have reserved the back rows for families with small children. If your child becomes restless and you feel the need to leave the worship area, the service can be viewed in our parent's room. The parent's room is located down the hall and to your right just past the restrooms.

Service Participants:

Livestream/Music: Zack Sickmann
Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch

Current Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end. Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us. "The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

October 4: God is Patient
October 11: Guest Preacher: Nathan Strutz
October 18: Give to God What is God's
October 25: Reformation: Stay Steadfast
November 1: Focus on the Future (All Saints' Day)
November 8: Watch for the Final Events
November 15: Put Your Affairs in Order
November 22: Hope for the Best

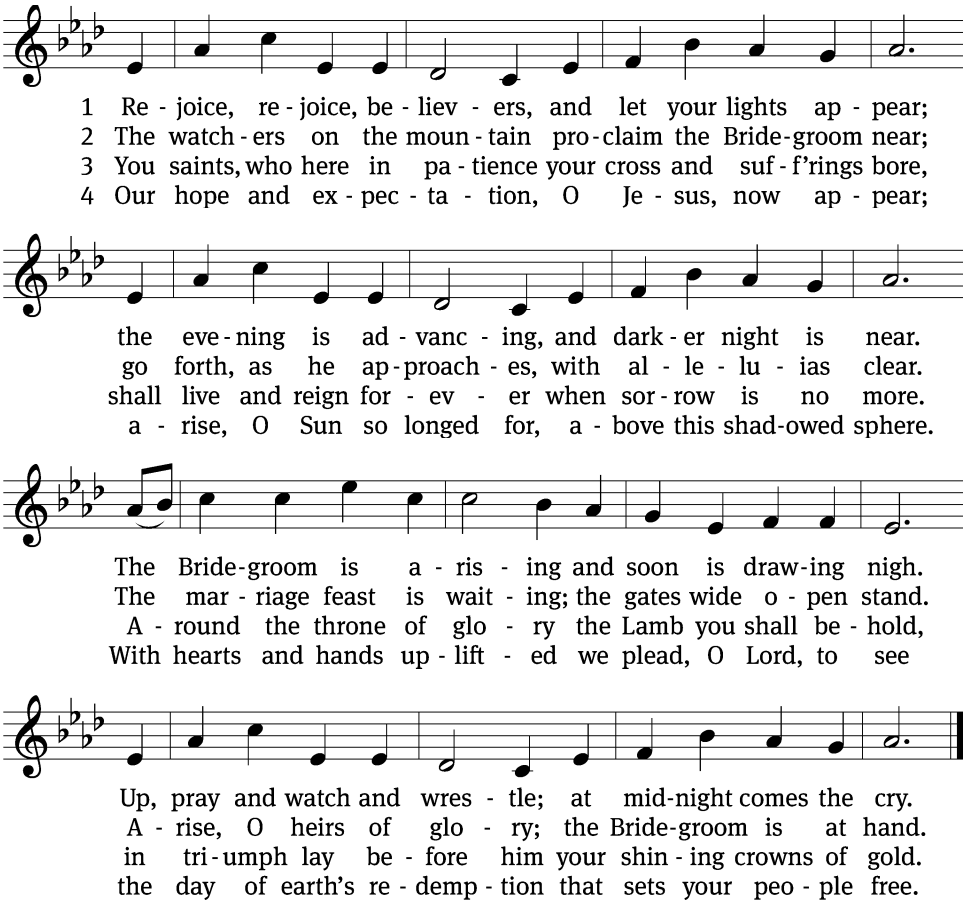
Today's Focus: Watch for Final Events

Imagine you are planning to take the family out to dinner. You all have to wait for someone to get ready. Minute after minute passes. What can happen in that situation? It's easy to focus on something else and even forget the original goal. Perhaps as you wait, you even fall asleep. As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. Why does it have to take so long? God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



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 worshipers of their baptisms.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Psalm 32:1-2

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

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
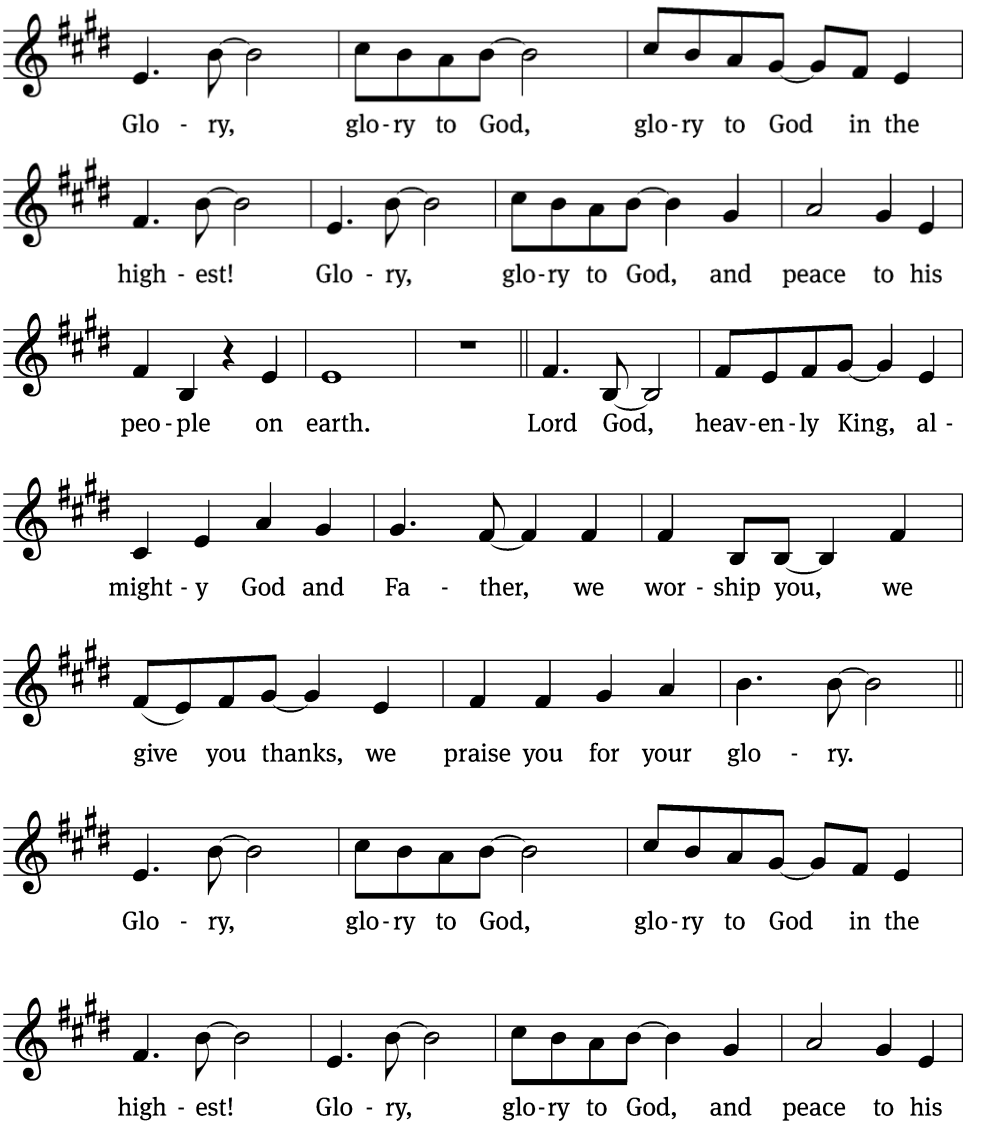
Absolution
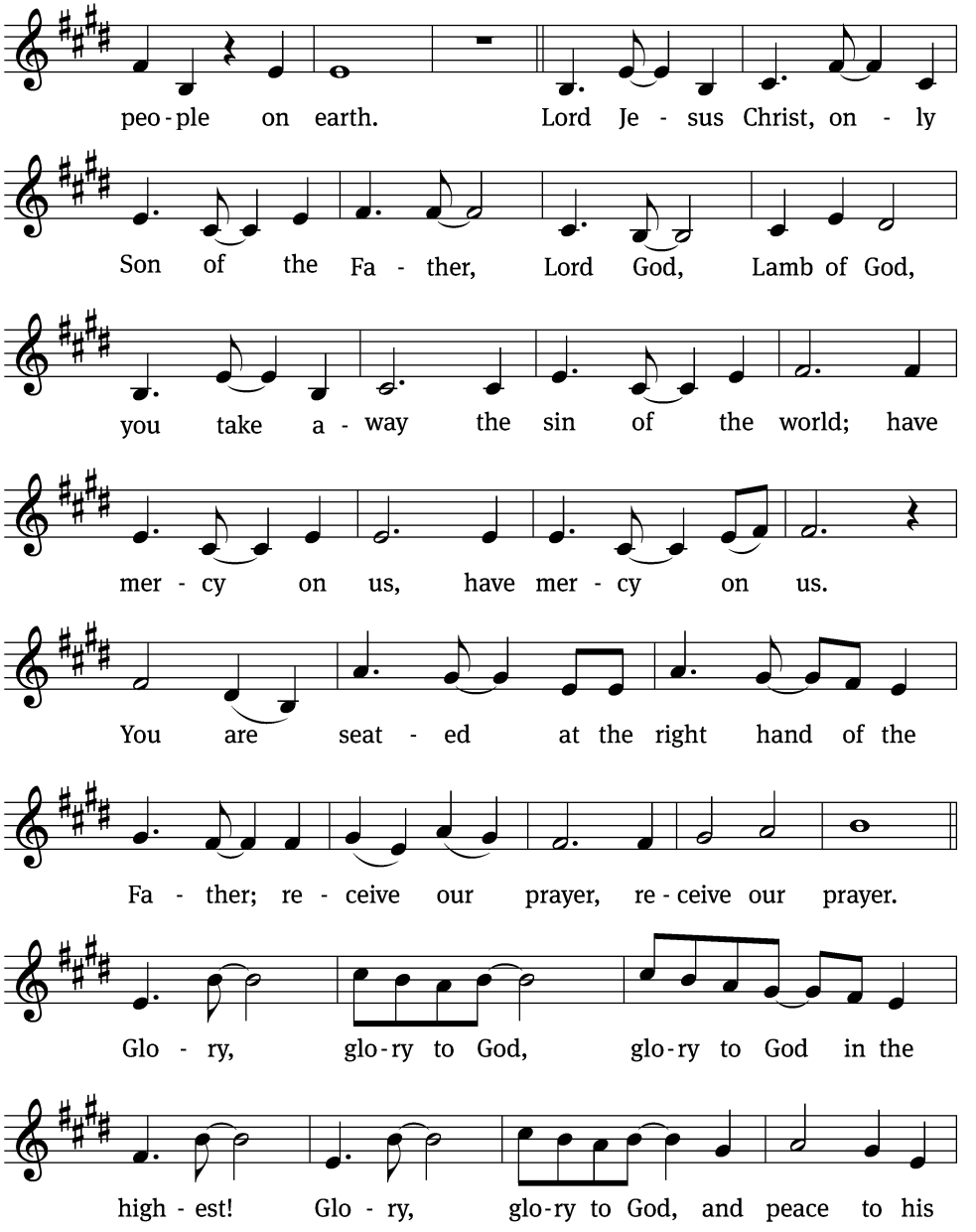
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
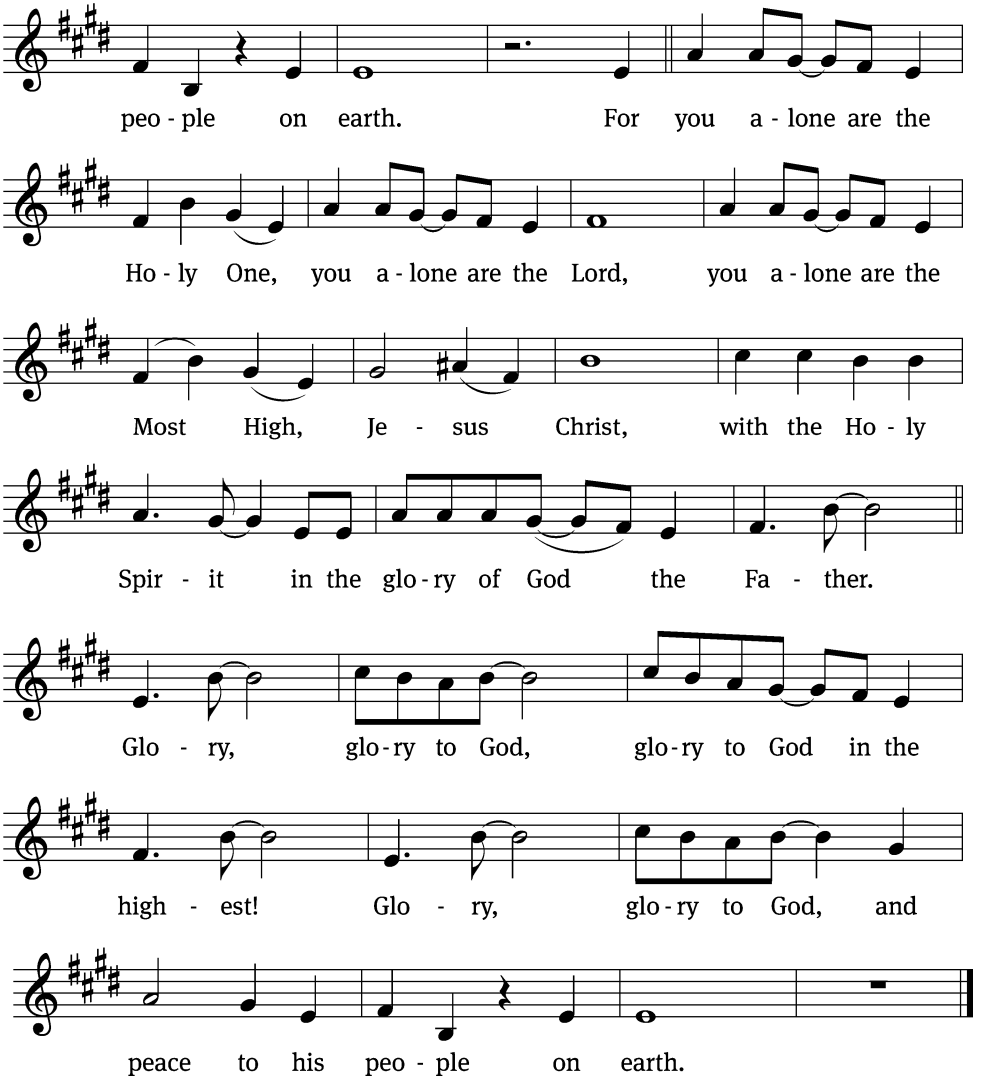
You are at peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

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."




peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and peace to his


peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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

Isaiah 52:1–6

Though temporarily held captive, the Lord urges his people to wake from their slumber, dress in garments of splendor, and wait for their redemption.

[1]Awake, awake, Zion,
clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
will not enter you again.
[2]Shake off your dust;
rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
Daughter Zion, now a captive.

[3]For this is what the LORD says:

"You were sold for nothing,
and without money you will be redeemed."

[4]For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"At first my people went down to Egypt to live;
lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

[5]"And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD.

"For my people have been taken away for nothing,
and those who rule them mock,"
declares the LORD.

"And all day long
my name is constantly blasphemed.
[6]Therefore my people will know my name;
therefore in that day they will know
that it is I who foretold it.
Yes, it is I."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Because the day of the Lord will come like a thief, Christians are to be awake and sober as they wait for their salvation.

[1]Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, [2]for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

[4]But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. [5]You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. [6]So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
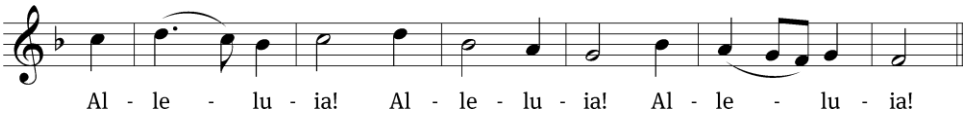
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand
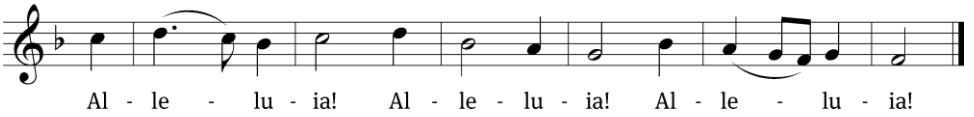
Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42

After an introduction, the congregation will join to sing the verse.



Alleluia. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Alleluia.



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 25:1–13

1"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took
their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were
foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did not
take any oil with them. 4The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with
their lamps. 5The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all
became drowsy and fell asleep.

6"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to
meet him!'

7"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish
ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

9" 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you.
Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

Though we do not know the day or hour of his return, we wait eagerly and expectantly for Christ's return as a bride waits for her bridegroom.

[10]"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

[11]"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

[12]"But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

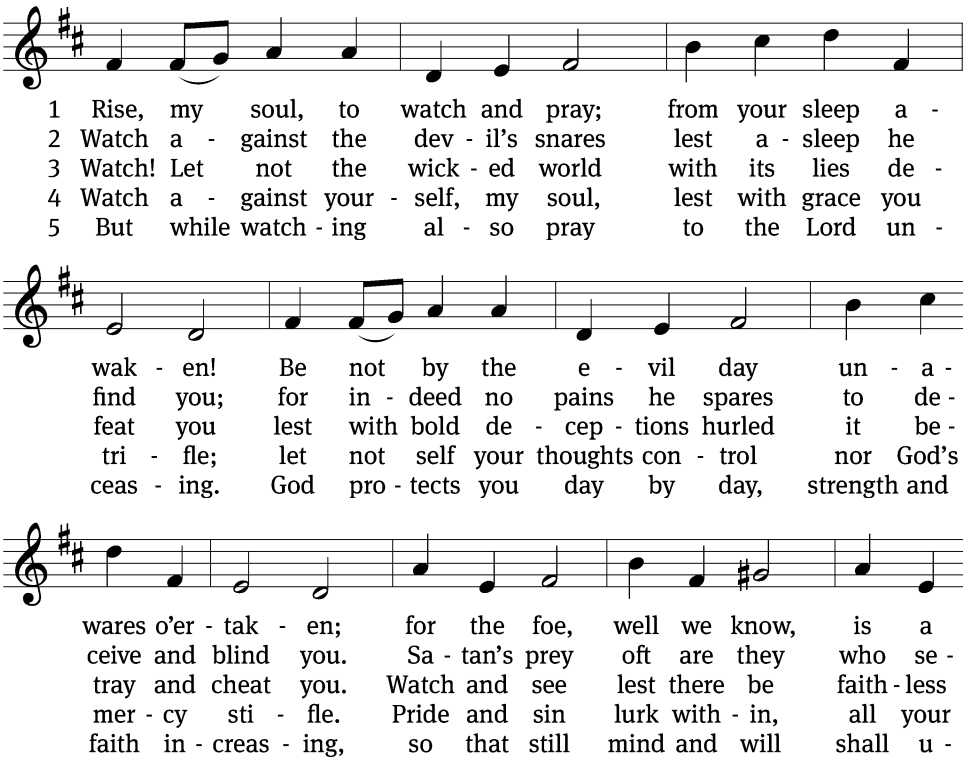
[13]"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.
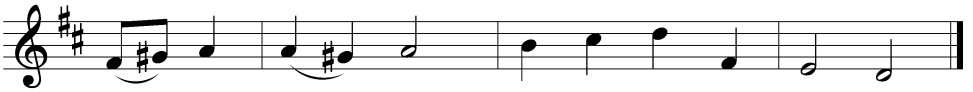
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray





har - vest reap - ing while the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing and no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve him and for - ev - er love him.

Sermon

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Please stand

Confession of Faith

Apostles' 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.

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.

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.

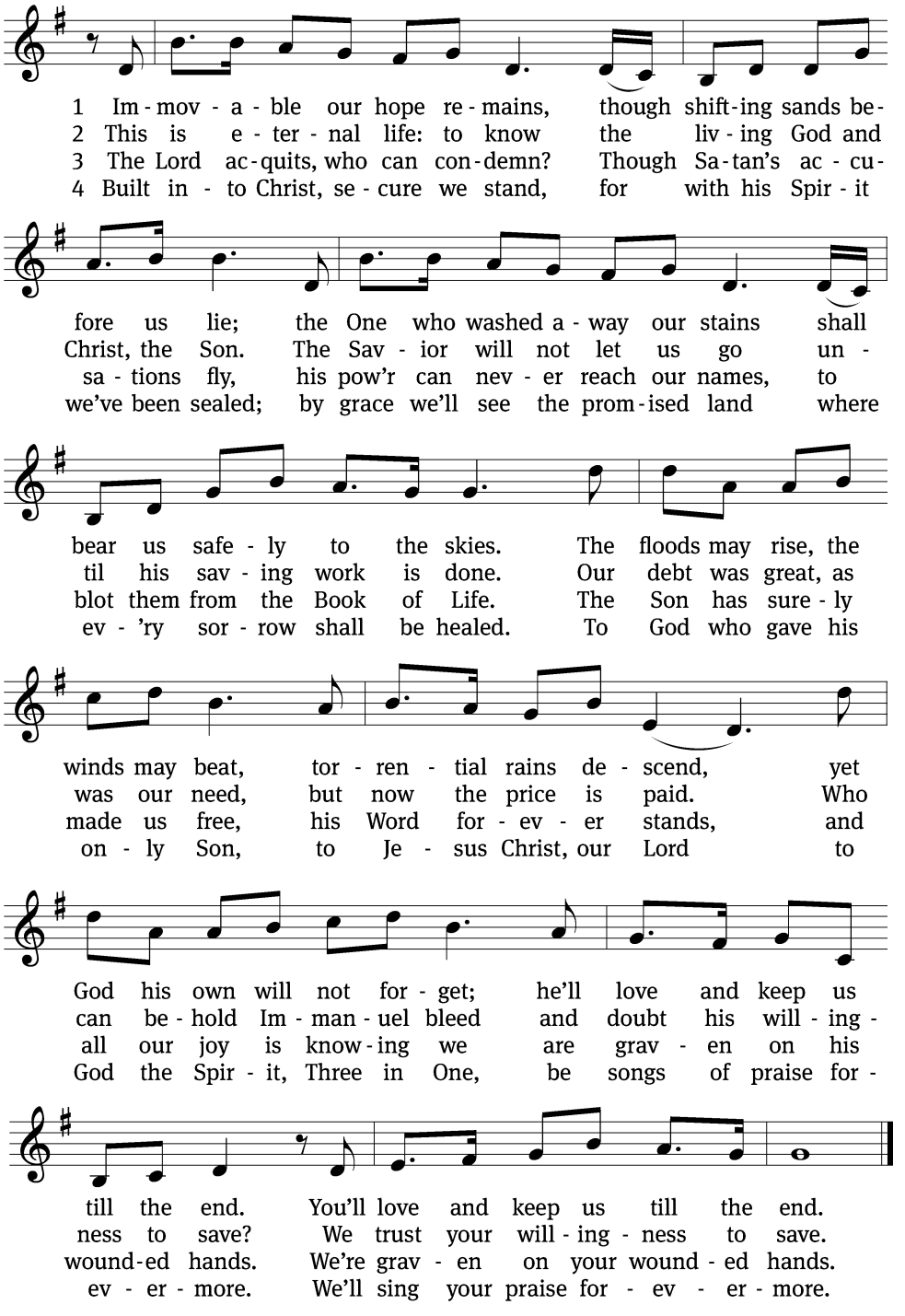
Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27

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.

Hymn

Immovable Our Hope Remains



You're Invited

You are invited to join us after worship for snacks and refreshments in the fellowship hall. We'd love to get to know you better. Join us!

Thanksgiving Worship Service - November 18th

On Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 PM, we will have a special Thanksgiving worship service. We will gather together to give thanks to our Lord for all His many blessings – past, present and future. Please join us for this special service. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Thanksgiving Dinner

Following the Thanksgiving worship service, we will enjoy a Thanksgiving, potluck-style meal for students and members alike. There is a sign-up sheet on the blue table in the entryway to bring food for this meal. Everyone is welcome to join us for good food and even better conversation.

Wednesday Meals

We have a few slots still open for Wednesday dinners this semester. These meals are part of our Wednesday evening Bible study. Please consider providing a meal. You can prepare it in advance and leave it for the students to serve on their own, or you can stay and serve the meal if you would like. Either is just fine. You can sign up on the table in the entryway. Contact Judy Limpert, (507-273-5535) if you have any questions.

Council Meeting

The Church Council will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 7:30 PM.

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.

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.

Upcoming Events

The Peace Campus Ministry semester events are found below. All these events are in addition to the weekly Wednesday dinner and Bible study. You can find more information about events on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

Wednesday, Nov 18:	Thanksgiving Worship and Dinner
Saturday, Dec 5:	Christmas Canvassing and Dinner
Friday, Dec 11:	Christmas Caroling

Christmas Canvassing

On December 5th, we will advertise our Christmas Eve Candlelight service by hanging invitations on front doors around Houghton. Then we will warm up in the fellowship hall with a nice meal. If you can only make it to the canvassing or the meal, that is just fine. Come and go as you please.

Canvassing: 2:00-4:15

Meal: 4:30-5:30

This Week at Peace

Sunday, November 8th
Bible Study/Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am
Beiring Baby Shower 1:00 pm

Wednesday, November 11th
Dinner and Bible Study 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 15th
Bible Study/Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am

Serving Our Lord and Us Today



Usher Team 2 – Steve Krug
Counter – Scott Miers
Livestream/Music – Zack Sickmann
Snacks – Mary Ann Krug
Children's Ministry – Kenzie Hnilicka

Serving Our Lord and Us on Wednesday, November 11th

Student Dinner – Help Needed

Serving Our Lord and Us on Sunday, November 15th

Usher Team 3 Cody Stopel, Ed Beiring, Ben Fischer, Scott Miers
Counter – Steve Krug
Livestream/Music – Nate Crowder
Snacks – Amy Hughes
Children's Ministry – Help Needed


THANKSGIVING
Worship & Dinner
Join us for a special Thanskgiving worship service with a potluck dinner to follow!
Peace Lutheran Church
47745 Mill Road
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH
WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM
MEAL FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
This is a potluck style meal, so bring food if you are willing! See the sign-up sheet on the blue table in the entryway at church.

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.