



Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, March 2, 2025

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: Epiphany Moments

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” When someone has an epiphany, it's not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an “a-ha!” moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

Worship Series Schedule: Epiphany Moments

January 19 - Baptism Is the Cure for an Identity Crisis

January 26 - God Delivers More Than We Ask, Not Less

February 2 - Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure

February 9 - The Least Qualified Are the First Sent

February 16 - Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed

February 23 - Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good

March 2 - Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed

Today's Focus: *Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed*

Would you look directly at the sun? Only if you wanted to burn your retinas and have permanent blind spots. Would you like to look directly at God? It sounds wonderful in theory. Yet Scripture describes God's glory as being brighter than the sun. Moreover, one component of God's glory is his holiness. Being holy doesn't just mean God loves good; he also hates evil with burning intensity. And we sin every day. No wonder the Lord once told Moses, "No one may see me and live" (Exodus 33:20). Sinners would die of fear if they saw God in all his holy glory.

So, how then can we possibly know God? How can we draw near to him without dying of terror? In our final epiphany moment of this season, God explains. God hides his glory in order to reveal himself. To carry out his good and glorious work of salvation, Jesus hid his glory and went to the cross. To allow sinners to stare at his glory without fear or harm, God hides it in the gospel. In the gospel, we see the glory of Christ's love, power, and salvation. The reality is that when God's glory is hidden, it is most on display.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

God wants his people to prepare the sacrament of Holy Communion because it is a powerful meal. For a personal examination guide, see page 156 in the red hymnal.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann and Nate Crowder

Guest Preacher: Phil Paustian



THE SERVICE

Hymn

Christ Begins

This song of praise takes us through the Epiphany season. Stanza 1: the Baptism of Jesus (Epiphany 1); stanza 2: the Wedding at Cana (Epiphany 2); stanza 3: Transfiguration (Last Sunday of Epiphany); refrain: the Season of Epiphany.

1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.
2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.
3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.
4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain - side.

Wa - ter runs and all heav - en
Yet six jars are filled with the
Clothes like light - ning white, heav - en
Watch the clos - ing clouds hide him

o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?
o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

Refrain
Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a

light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my

God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Confession

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.**

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

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.

By Jesus' command and authority, 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.

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

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.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1

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

Glory to God

sts. Ref, 3-4

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."



3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



his right - eous - ness is all our plea.
all that we are has come from you.



Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



his per - fect work has set us free.
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.

Prayer

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to 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

Reading

Exodus 34:29–35

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

³³When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The glory of God was reflected in the two-sided covenant of the law which God established through Moses. It made people afraid. Through Christ God would establish a new and greater covenant which would remove all our fears.

As the Deer

Psalm



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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Reading

2 Corinthians 3:7–18

⁷Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Paul declares that the glory of the New Covenant of grace far surpasses the glory of the Old Covenant of law. The glory of the New Covenant is hidden in the work of Christ and revealed through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 9:7

Alleluia. A cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Alleluia.

Speak, O Lord st. 1

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

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.

Gospel

Luke 9:28–36

The glory of God, hidden in Christ, shines through on the Mount of Transfiguration.

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for

you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, oh Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Down from the Mount of Glory



- 1 Down from the mount of glo - ry came Je - sus Christ, our Lord.
- 2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, stood ra - dian - t in the light,
- 3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the mount de - scend
- 4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that is his fame
- 5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry of Je - sus Christ, our Lord,



Re - call the won - drous sto - ry, rich gem in sa - cred Word.
light found in God - head sole - ly, for hu - man eyes too bright.
and, by the Fa - ther bid - den, his will - ing foot - steps bend
our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed a mount—the hill of shame.
and let the won - drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford!



A - gain your faith will view him in dou - ble glo - ry here;
Then came a voice from heav - en, con - firmed what here we see;
to seek hu - mil - i - a - tion in deep - est depths of woe,
Up - on the cross he prof - ered him - self to ag - o - ny;
The ho - ly mount ac - claims him the maj - es - ty di - vine;



the great - er hom - age due him will in your life ap - pear.
the words “my Son” were giv - en to seal his de - i - ty.
to suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion no mind can probe or know. ¹¹
his ho - ly soul he of - fered to set the guilt - y free.
Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er—yours and mine.

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.

Nicene Creed

**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.

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.



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

These opening words mark the beginning of the Sacrament and are among the oldest words in the liturgy. Christians have been speaking these words to each other for thousands of years.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

And Christ is Here

Sung to the tune of "In Christ Alone"

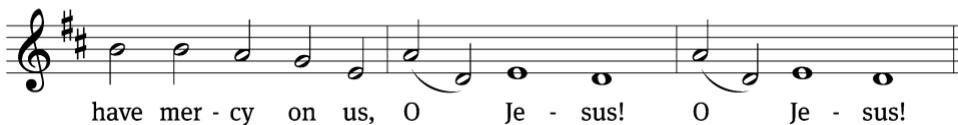
**And Christ is here
In means divine
Found underneath the bread and wine!
In water poured There with the Word
The living voice of Christ is heard!
And when his Christians Fall to sin
Our Jesus calls us back again
For Christ is here
In means divine -
Blessing us through his design!**

Words of Institution

The pastor speaks the words of institution according to 1 Corinthians 11. Afterward, the congregation will sing the song below.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy



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

Distribution

After the song, please be seated. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

1 Cor. 11:26

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.**

Farewell to Alleluia

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Psalm



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -
2 In ev - 'ry land be - gin the song, to ev - 'ry
3 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, LORD; e - ter - nal



a - tor's praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
land the strains be - long: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
truth at - tends your Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung through ev - 'ry
In cheer - ful sound all voic - es raise and fill the
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall



land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
world with joy - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Isaac Watts; (st. 2): A Pocket Hymn Book

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten Services

Starting this Wednesday, there will be midweek services At Peace. There will be a meal for everyone who wishes to attend at 5:15. The service will begin at 6:00 and be over by 6:45.

Why an extra service? Isn't one enough? Besides the fact that midweek services during the Lenten season have been a historical practice in the church for thousands of years, these evening services help to prepare our hearts and minds for the most impactful week in the history of the world, Holy Week. While it is an extra commitment, I promise you will not be disappointed when you make this a part of your Wednesday routine. God will bless this time in his word. See you Wednesday!

Winter Play Group

Peace is starting a playgroup on Sunday afternoons. We will provide a service for the young families in the area by giving them a space to have their kids run around, blow off some energy, and give parents a chance to socialize with other parents. All the while, we can meet new people and eventually connect them to Peace. Here are the details:

Every Sunday from February 16 - April 13

3:00-5:00 pm

Racquetball courts on the first floor of the SDC

The playing group will be canceled today because the Pastor is out of town for a funeral.

Shifting from Wednesday Dinner and Bible Study to Wednesday Lenten Dinners and Services

For most of the year, our church provides meals for students on Wednesdays prior to a Bible study. **During the season of Lent, the students will not be meeting for Bible study.** However, there will still be a meal on Wednesday. If you are interested in helping to serve or provide a meal, please sign up on the sheet in the entryway. More than one person can sign up for a meal. Please reach out to Pastor Welch if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events

To view the church calendar, scan the QR code or visit the church website. Click on the “Church Calendar” tab.

March 5th – Dinner at 5:15, Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00

March 8th – Tubing at Mont Ripley





PEACE

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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.