

God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home

*Theme of the Day: Hiding Treasure in the Trash*

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, April 6, 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: Open Door Policies**

When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home.

In the Church Year, we have come to the season of Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word for spring: "lengthen," when the days grow longer. For over 1400 years, the church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. In this 40-day journey to the cross and tomb, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

## **Worship Series Schedule: Open Door Policies**

Ash Wednesday: *Lowering Our Defenses*

March 9: *One Stands; Everyone Else Sits*

March 16: *No Detours Allowed*

March 23: *Always Present, Always Patient*

March 30: *Grace Instead of Condemnation*

**April 6<sup>th</sup>: *Hiding Treasure in the Trash***

### **Today's Focus: *Hiding Treasure in the Trash***

This week we see how our Father makes the treasures of his house available to any and all. He places them in the last place we'd expect—the trash. In God's family, the things the world prizes and pursues are counted as worthless. Conversely, what the world rejects and discards is considered priceless and worth pursuing. The best example of this is Jesus Christ himself. The Father sent his greatest treasure—God the Son—to earth. And many considered Jesus to be a trash that needed to be taken out. . . a troublemaker that needed to be killed. In truth, Christ is the precious cornerstone that God used to build his house, the one with the open door.

### **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

Accompaniment: Zack Sickmann, Emma Bohme, Ella Erdman, Benji Doerr

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



# ORDER OF SERVICE FOR LENT

*Lent is the most contemplative season of the church year. For centuries, Christians have adapted the order of service as we acknowledge our many sins and reflect on the sacrifice our Lord Jesus made on our behalf. At the start of today's worship, we hear the comforting voice of our Savior and see his equally gracious works of peace.*

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

## Gathering Rite: Lord, Have Mercy

*Please stand.*

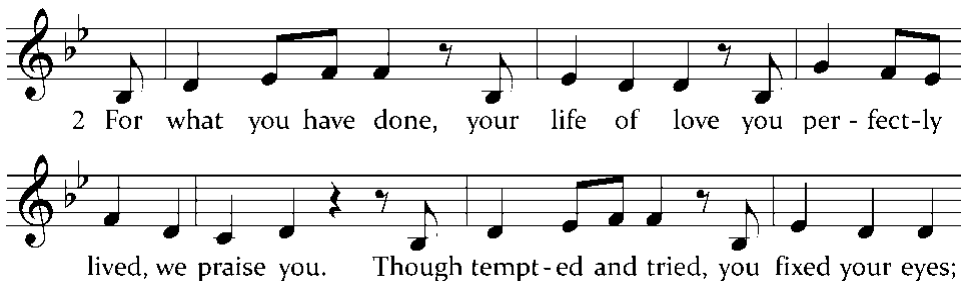
In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Soloist sings:*

- 1 For what we have done and left undone  
we fall on your countless mercies.  
For sins that are known and those unknown  
we call on your name so holy.  
For envy and pride, for closing our eyes;  
for scorning our very neighbor.  
In thought, word, and deed we've failed you, our King;  
how deeply we need a Savior.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us.

*All sing:*



you fin-ished the work God gave you. And there on the tree,

a King a-mong thieves, you bled for a world's be-tray-al.

You loved to the end, our mer-ci-ful friend; how

pure and for-ev-er faith-ful. Lord, have mer-cy,

Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy on\_\_\_ us.

Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy

on\_\_\_ us. Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer-cy,

Lord, have mer-cy on\_\_\_ us. Lord, have mer-cy,

Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy on us.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

**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.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

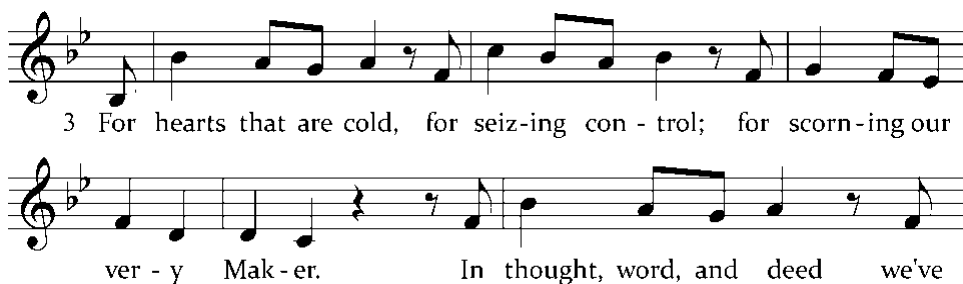
**Amen.**

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.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*All sing:*



failed you, our King; how deep - ly we need a Sav - ior.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on — us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on — us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on — us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on — us.

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## Prayer

Almighty God, by your great goodness, mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 43:16–21*

Isaiah  
prophesied  
that the  
nation of  
Babylon  
would trash  
Judah and  
carry them  
into  
captivity.  
Isaiah also

<sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD says—  
he who made a way through the sea,  
a path through the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup>who drew out the chariots and horses,  
the army and reinforcements together,  
and they lay there, never to rise again,  
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup>“Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
<sup>19</sup>See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.  
<sup>20</sup>The wild animals honor me,  
the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland,  
to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
<sup>21</sup>the people I formed for myself  
that they may proclaim my praise.

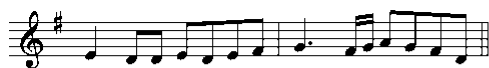
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Lesson



## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118:22



### Refrain



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

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

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

During Lent, “alleluias” are omitted.

### Refrain

## Gospel

Luke 20:9–19

<sup>9</sup>He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. <sup>10</sup>At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup>He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup>He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

<sup>13</sup>“Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

<sup>14</sup>“But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>15</sup>So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup>He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

God the Father sent his Son into the world knowing the world would consider Jesus trash, even though Jesus is the precious cornerstone upon which God builds his house.

<sup>17</sup>Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone”?


<sup>18</sup>Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

<sup>19</sup>The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.


The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Hymn of the Day

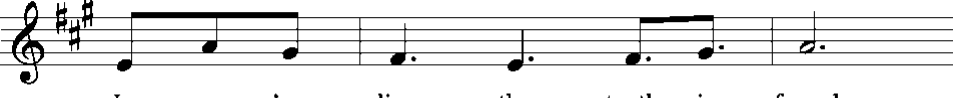
*Reformation Song sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–4*




1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,  
2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you;  
3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;  
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



the might - y rock on which we build.  
we have no mer - it we can claim.  
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.  
all that we are has come from you.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,  
Sure that your prom - is - es are true,  
Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;  
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled. v. 2 name.  
 we place our hope in Je - sus' free.  
 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.

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

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

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## Second Reading

*Philippians 3:4b-14*

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup>But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

St. Paul views as trash what most consider to be treasure and treasures what most consider to be trash.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

*Philippians 3:4b–14*

### **Nicene Creed**

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.**

## **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

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, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

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.

## 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*

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!

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

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

### *God Loved the World So That He Gave*



- 1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in  
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the  
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;  
this is the anchor of my faith!

- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessèd Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

# 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](mailto: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 full schedule on the tables in the fellowship hall, on the app or website, or by scanning the QR code.

## Easter Lilies

On Easter morning, our sanctuary will be decorated with Easter lilies. If you would like to donate some lilies, please sign up in the fellowship hall or talk to Amy Hughes.

## Pickleball Today



Peace Campus Ministry will host a pickleball tournament today from 3:30-6:30 at the Tennis Center. Students and members of all skill levels will come together for a friendly tournament. If you are interested in playing, please register by scanning the QR code or talking to Pastor.

## Easter Outreach Event

This Saturday, from 1:00 to 4:00, students and members will hang invitations to Easter breakfast and worship on front doors around town. The goal is to invite more people to hear the hope of Easter. Afterward, there will be a dinner.

## **Easter Invitation**

You received an invitation to Easter worship in your service folder today. When you pick up a copy of the April newsletter, you will receive four more invitations. Take them home with you and invite your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors to join us for worship on Easter! This is all part of the Peace Easter project, which is explained in the handout you will receive with the April newsletter.

## **Newsletters**

Pick up your copy in the back as you exit worship. You will also receive an explanation of the Peace Easter Project.

## **Summer Backpacking Trip to Pictured Rocks – August 20-22**

Members of Peace, MTU, and NMU students are invited to come to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for three days and two nights. The cost is only \$20. You can sign up online or at the table at the entryway. This morning at 11:25 am, there will be a short presentation about the trip in the fellowship hall.

## **Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule**

- Holy Thursday - April 17, 6:00 pm
- Good Friday - April 18, 6:00 pm
- Easter Breakfast - April 20, 9:00 am
- Easter Worship - April 20, 10:15 am



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**[Peacehoughton.org](http://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.