



He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, May 3, 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: What Difference Does it Make?

Easter Day: *He lives to take me from death to life*

April 12: *He lives to give me proof and peace*

April 19: *He lives to restore my hope*

April 26: *He lives to be my Good Shepherd*

May 3: *He lives to be the only way to heaven*

May 10: *He lives to call me to live for him*

May 17: *He lives to rule all things for the Church*

May 24: *He lives to give me eager expectation of glory*

May 31: *He lives to pour out his Spirit*

Series Theme: What Difference Does It Make?

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. “The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin.

But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50-day celebration of that fact.

Today’s Focus: *He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven*

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder if he wasn’t just a human being. If my last view of him is a criminal crucified on a cross, he would look like someone to be rejected. He couldn’t even help himself, much less anyone else!

But he lives, and it makes a difference. He is the only way to heaven. This gospel message is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the resurrection of Jesus are meant for every man, woman, and child who has ever lived.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 How can it be, the One who died has borne our
 2 For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis -
 3 Where doubt and dark - ness once had been, they saw him



sin through sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry
 ci - ples lift their eyes. A - live he stands, their
 and their hearts be - lieved. But blest are those who



sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 2
 friend and King; Christ, Christ, he is ris - en!
 have not seen, yet sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 4



Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -



lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:



"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." v. 3/v. 5

**4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
they preached the truth and pow'r of grace
and pouring out their lives they gained
life, life everlasting. (Refrain)**

**5 The pow'r that raised him from the grave
now works in us to pow'rfully save.
He frees our hearts to live his grace;
go, tell of his goodness. (Refrain)**

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Ed Cash, b. 1971

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Ed Cash, b. 1971

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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

We are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.
**Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for
themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.**

Let us confess that often we have lived for ourselves, confident in the
forgiveness of him who lived, died, and rose for us.

*2 Corinthians
5:14,15*

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless
worrying and selfish pride,
for sins of habit and sins of choice,
for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should
cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

Absolution

1 Corinthians
15:17-20

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

After his resurrection, Christ commanded his church to proclaim his forgiveness, promising that their words were as certain as his. Therefore, by Christ's command and with his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

1 Corinthians
15:54,55

Death has been swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?
Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

After a brief introduction, the congregation sings:

**6 The life he lived is mine to claim
No sins, no death, I rise through faith
The guilt is gone, the shame removed
Now, I live in freedom.**

Refrain:

**Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!
Oh, sing "hallelujah!"
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
"Christ is risen, he is risen indeed."**



Prayer

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of 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

Acts 4:8–12

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.’

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4–10

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says:



St. Peter explains that Jesus is the only person in whom salvation is found.

People stumble over the claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven. But that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church.

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

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

⁸and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

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

After a brief introduction, the congregation joins in singing the refrains.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes
to the Father except through me. Alleluia.

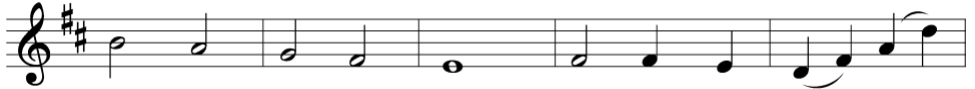
John 14:6

Hymn of the Day

152 I Know That My Redeemer Lives sts. 1-2, 5, 7-8



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; he lives, and
8 He lives, all glo - ry to his name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives all - glo - rious
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my
I shall con - quer death; he lives my man - sion
Je - sus, still the same. Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
in the sky; he lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.
to pre - pare; he lives to bring me safe - ly there.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1739-1799, abr.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, 1710-1793

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

1 Peter 2:4-10

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.

Psalm 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 a¹³
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.

Hymn

141 *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* sts. 1-2, 4

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal

our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast -
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love

flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

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;

Psalms 118:1

His mercy endures forever.

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.

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn

I Run to Christ



1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref - uge
 2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -
 3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -



sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
 freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives
 cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion



wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
 way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
 yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and



find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he
 find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the
 find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he



gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.
 Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.
 pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

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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
May 3	Steve	Scott	Mary Ann	Sarah Robb
May 10	Cody	Craig	Mary Ann	Lesley/Janet
May 17	Steve	Steve	Mary Ann	Gabriela
May 24	Cesar	Cody	Mary Ann	Amy Hughes
May 31	Cody	Scott	Mary Ann	Kristie Vlahos

Backpacking Trip

Every summer, a group of students and members go backpacking the week before the fall semester. This summer, we will head to the Porcupine Mountains on August 26-28th. If you are interested in this trip, you can find more information or register by searching for the event in the app/website or by scanning the QR code.





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.