

TOP^a-down
FAITH

The text 'TOP-down FAITH' is rendered in a gold, textured, sans-serif font. The word 'TOP' is on the top line, followed by a superscripted 'a', and 'down' is on the second line. Below that, 'FAITH' is written in a larger font size. A vertical arrow points downwards from the top of the letter 'T' on the left, and another vertical arrow points downwards from the top of the letter 'H' on the right.

***THE DEVIL DOES HIS WORST,
YET JESUS ALWAYS WINS***

Peace Lutheran Church
Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, June 9, 2024

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: A Top-Down Faith

May 19: *Trust Your Ears More than Your Eyes*

May 26: *Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned*

June 2: *Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer*

June 9: *The Devil Does His Worst, Yet Jesus Always Wins*

June 16: *From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom*

June 23: *Our Gracious God Is with Us through All the Storms of Life*

June 30: *The Living Lord Completely Changes Our View of Death*

Series Explanation: A Top-Down Faith

The phrase “from the top down” is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those “at the top” are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top town.

We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith. Christian teachings come “from the top down,” but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a “top-down faith,” we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn’t possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

Today’s Focus: *The Devil Does His Worst, Yet Jesus Always Wins*

Look at our lives—the problems, the pains—and it’s easy to conclude that we are losing. Look at the world—the brokenness, the bedlam—and it’s easy to believe that the devil is winning. It all can lead us to despair. Yet this turmoil is exactly what God said would happen already in the Garden. There God declared that until the end of time enmity would prevail between the devil and mankind. But God promised more than that. He promised that from humanity would rise one who would completely defeat the devil.

We need a top-down faith to understand that things are definitely not what they seem. Yes, the devil and his allies are constantly doing their worst. Their work always brings pain. Yet, ultimately, Jesus always wins. And his victory is our victory. Jesus’ victory is so complete that even when Satan continues to cause chaos, Christ uses it to reveal his glory and grace to those gifted with top-down faith.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug
Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Hymn

Christ Be My Leader



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day;
2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;



safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way. ____
drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth. ____
death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor



Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care, ____
Grant me to trust him; though shift - ing as sand, ____
dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain can



dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Irish

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Tune: Public domain

Please stand

Invocation

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

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.**

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

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 T 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!

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

1 John 1:8

1 John 1:9

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.

1 John 3:1

Glory to God

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."



1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



the might - y rock on which we build.
all that we are has come from you.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled.
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: Bob Kaufflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

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

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Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do your will; 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

Genesis 3:8-15 (EHV)

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head,



The devil did his worst, but a gracious God promised that from Eve’s descendants would come one who would defeat the serpent for us.

and you will crush his heel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Revelation 20:1-6 (EHV)

God had
promised
victory in the
Garden.
Jesus allows
St. John to
see that
victory in
his
Revelation.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, bound him for a thousand years, ³threw him into the abyss, locked it, and set a seal on it, so that he could no longer deceive the nations until the thousand years come to an end. After this he must be released for a short time.

⁴Then I saw thrones, and those who were sitting on them were given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast and his image, and they did not receive his mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not live until the thousand years came to an end.) This is the first resurrection.

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them. Instead they will be priests of God and of Christ. And they will reign with him for a thousand years.

Children's Lesson

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. Alleluia.

1 John 3:8

3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your
Church is built, and the earth is filled with 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

Mark 3:20-35

²⁰They went into a house. A crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat a meal. ²¹When his own people heard this, they went out to take control of him, because they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Jesus came to oppose Satan and his allies and undo all their work.

²²The experts in the law who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He drives out demons by the ruler of demons.”

²³Jesus called them together and spoke to them in parables. “How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. ²⁷On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man’s house to steal his possessions unless he ties up the strong man first. Then he can plunder his house. ²⁸Amen I tell you: Everything will be forgiven people, their sins and whatever blasphemies they may speak. ²⁹But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.” ³⁰Jesus said this because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers arrived. While they were standing outside, they sent word to Jesus, calling for him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him. They began to tell him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are outside looking for you.”

³³He replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴He looked at those who sat around him in a circle and he said, “Look, my mother and my brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;

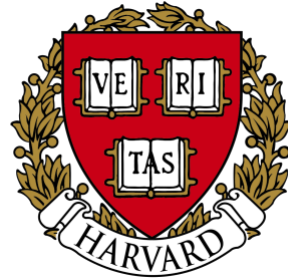


on earth is not his e - qual.
he holds the field for - ev - er.
one lit - tle word can fell him.
the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Sermon

Genesis 3:8-15

Please stand



Apostles' Creed

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.

**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.

Prayer of the Church

Please stand. The Pastor will speak the prayer of the church and the congregation will join in 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 T give you peace.
Amen.

Numbers 6:22-27

Please be seated

Hymn 752 in Blue Hymnal

In Christ Alone

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.

Sunday Bible Study – Growing in Grace and Knowledge

The goal of this study is twofold. First, “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” will hopefully help you grow in your understanding of Christian living by looking at a variety of topics pertaining to Christian life. The first topic is Christian Living itself. The Subsequent topics are **Prayer, Worship, Church, Stewardship, family, The World, and Evangelism.**

The second goal of "Growing in Grace and Knowledge" is to make you more comfortable with personal Bible study. Each topic contains five lessons, for a total of forty. Each lesson consists of a portion of Scripture that you will look up during the week leading up to Sunday. You will be answering questions, underlining Bible verses, and even making notes in your Bible. Hopefully, over the course of the forty lessons, you will become more comfortable with the process of studying Scripture.

As you consider coming to Sunday Bible study, here are my promises to you:

- I will work extremely hard to make sure you feel comfortable.

- I will gently push you to grow in grace and knowledge by making Bible studies relevant, timely, and interesting.
- You are not expected to know anything at all.
- There truly is no such thing as a bad question, so I will never make fun of anything anyone says.
- I never call on anyone to read.
- I will never call on anyone to answer in front of the group unless they want to.
- My goal is for you to relax and be fed by God's word.
- I am going to have a blast!
- There will be coffee!

Brat Fry and Friendship Sunday – June 22 and 23

We have good news that we want to share! Strategies to share that message have changed drastically in the last 15-20 years. Simply put, people do not trust large institutions or churches the way that they used to. That means the old church outreach model will no longer be very effective. So, what's the best way to share the good news with more people? You! While people do not trust the church like they used to, they do trust you, their Christian friend. Inviting people to church can be scary. Friendship Sunday is designed to make it a little less scary for you and for your friend or family member who comes to Peace for the first time. Consider inviting your friends or family members to Friendship Sunday so we can share the good news with them too!

Friendship Sunday Potluck

We want our new friends at Peace to feel welcomed and enjoy their time here. What better way to extend the hand of friendship than by sharing a meal together? If you are able to bring an item, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

Acknowledgments

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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.

