



God Delivers More Than We Ask, Not Less

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, January 26, 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.

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 - Popularity Is Not Proof of Success

February 16 - The Least Qualified Are the First Sent

February 23 - Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed

March 2 - Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good

March 9 - Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed

Today's Focus: *God Delivers More Than We Ask, Not Less*

It is easy for us to assume that if God says “no” to a request, we are getting less than we wanted. We need to have an epiphany moment, seeing the reality—that God always wants more for us than we want from him. Saying “yes” to all our requests would often result in us receiving less joy, less blessing, a lesser life. So, when God says “no” to our request, we can be assured it is because he wants to give us more. Far more than existing as a “help desk” or 911 dispatch, God’s love for us is like that of a groom for his bride. His love for us exceeds all expectation and understanding. In that love, God always delivers more than we ask, not less.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE SERVICE

Hymn

By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; my soul, be -
2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, came down to
3 By grace! O mark this word of prom - ise when you are
4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, in trib - u -
5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; in Je - sus'



lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver at this word of
earth to bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own
by your sins op - pressed, when Sa - tan plagues your trou - bled
la - tion's fur - nace tried, by grace, de - spite all fear and
prom - ise I re - joice, for though I know my heart's con -



prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? So then this
mer - it that Je - sus died, your soul to win? No, it was
con - science, and when your heart is seek - ing rest. What rea - son
trou - ble, the Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I
di - tion, I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is



word must true re - main: by grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
grace, and grace a - lone, that brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
can - not com - pre - hend God by his grace to you did send.
help and strength se - cure if grace were not my an - chor sure?
glad, all grief has flown since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–1761, abr.

Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Invocation

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

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.

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!

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.

Hymn of Praise

Christ Begins



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:



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 be seated.

Prayer

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word

Reading

Isaiah 62:1–5

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.
²The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.
³You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;
for the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
⁵As a young man marries a young woman,
so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The prophet Isaiah pictures the Church's relationship with the Lord as an infinitely happy marriage. As our

Children's Lesson

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

John 1:14

Alleluia. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 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

John 2:1–11

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

To spare a newlywed couple embarrassment from having run out of wine, Mary asks Jesus to do something. Jesus delivers more than his mother asks, turning water into the choicest of wine.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

I Run to Christ



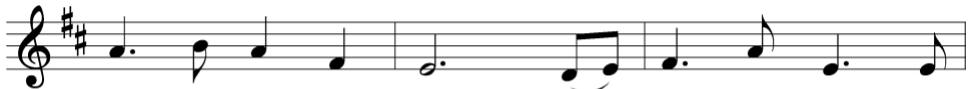
1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref - uge
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -



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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Reading

Ephesians 3:14–21

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

St. Paul teaches that God wants us to have a life that is fuller than we could possibly imagine.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Ephesians 3:14–21

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.

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.**

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

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.

Hymn

Psalm 42 – As the Deer



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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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.



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 directly to the right.



Here are some upcoming events to keep in mind. For the events below, you will need to register by scanning the QR code on the right.

- 1) **Laser Tag – January 30th, 5:45-7:00**
- 2) **Joint Campus Ministry Retreat – February 14-15**

Shoveling the Roof

Next Saturday at 10:00 am, we will be shoveling the roof at church. If you are able and willing, we would love your help. Church will have shovels, but if you have your own, please bring them along with you. Thank you for serving Jesus this way!



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

47745 Mill Rd.
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: 906-482-1602

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.