



*Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be
Humbled*

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, September 14, 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.

Current Worship Series: Wounds that Heal

August 24: God's Word Divides

August 31: The Door Is Very Narrow

September 7: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

September 14: Count the Cost

September 21: The Found are Left; the Lost are Found

September 28: No One Can Serve Two Masters

October 5: What Helps In Life Fails in Death

October 12: Increased Faith Increases Duty

Series Theme: *Wounds that Heal*

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Today’s Focus: *Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled*

Everyone knows that humility is a positive trait and pride is a negative one. So, why bother talking about what we already know? Because in spite of that knowledge, we still helplessly fall into the trap of pride. We all desire acclaim, recognition, and praise. Jesus’ sharp words this week teach us that seeking exaltation in futile and fleeing ways will only result in receiving the opposite. Those who attempt to exalt themselves will eventually be humbled by God. In contrast, Jesus promises that those who leave their exaltation to God will receive honor and glory far greater than any that can be awarded in this life. Our exaltation does not need to be our responsibility, because Jesus has already made it his.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, September 14, , 2025

Hymn

Reformation Song sts. 1-2, Ref, 3



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;



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



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;



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled. v. 2
we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
his per - fect work has set us free.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

Please stand

Invocation

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
worshippers of
their
baptisms.

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.**

1 John 1:9

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 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.

Glory to God

Reformation Song sts. Ref, 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."

4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved
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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Prayer of the Day

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6,7a



⁶Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,
and do not claim a place among his great men;
⁷it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here,"
than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

Solomon
provides
common
sense about
humility and
pride.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Second Reading

James 2:1–13

¹My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ²Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

James teaches
that showing
favoritism to
those we
think can
provide us
with upward
mobility
shows a lack
of mercy and
puts us at risk
of God's
judgment.

¹²Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Speak, O Lord

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.
that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll
love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your
fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Gospel

Luke 14:1,7-14

¹One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.

¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Jesus teaches some ways to demonstrate humility and promises that those who humble themselves will be exalted.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Luke 14:1,7-14

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.**

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!

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 pray 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

Now 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, to him be glory
in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and
ever!

Ephesians 3:20-21

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Numbers 6:22

The Lord look on you with favor and T 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.

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

The semester events are found below. For some of these, signing up is required since space is limited. To sign up, find the event on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app, or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

Sunday, Sept 21:	Canoe trip after church – sign up required
Wednesday, Oct 1:	Fire and s’mores after Bible study
Sunday, Oct 12:	Hike after church
Saturday, Nov 1:	Pickleball tournament – sign up required
Saturday, Nov 8:	Laser tag – sign up required
Wednesday, Nov 19:	Thanksgiving dinner
Saturday, Dec 6:	Christmas canvassing and dinner



Wednesday Dinner Help

Every Wednesday, the students meet for dinner and a Bible study. Please consider helping to provide a meal. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway on the blue table. It is not expected that you would pay for the meal, unless you want to. If you do purchase items for a meal, submit a receipt to Pastor Welch, and Peace will reimburse you. Reach out to Pastor Welch with any questions you may have. Thank you!



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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.