

Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer

Peace Lutheran Church

Houghton, Michigan Sunday, June 2, 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: Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer

No Christian teaching demonstrates that we have a top-down faith more than the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Scripture teaches that there is only one God. Yet that God exists as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Incomprehensible! It is the type of teaching about which the psalmist declares, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain" (Psalm 139:6). We believe in the Triune God without fully comprehending his existence, simply because the Spirit has given us the gift of faith. Our belief in the triune God came from the top down.

Not only is the concept of the Trinity itself something unique to the Christian faith, but what the triune God does for us and offers us is also completely unique. Our triune God invites us into the blessed relationship that is part of his very nature. The members of the Trinity share with us an intimacy that they have enjoyed with each other from eternity. Our triune God makes us not servants or subjects but blessed members of his family.

Service Participants:

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



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Trinity Sunday



Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876 Text and tune: Public domain

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 worshipers of their baptisms.

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!

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."



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

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Prayer

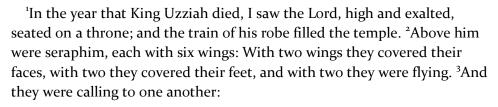
Almighty God and Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true, immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

The Word





"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"



Isaiah 6:1-8 – The triune God delivers Isaiah from guilt and sin and offers Isaiah lofty purpose. And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-17

The triune
God gifts us
the right to
speak to our
Father, the
comfort of
our Brother,
and the
indwelling of
the Spirit.

¹²Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

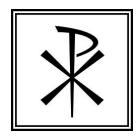
Alleluia. Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Isaiah 6:3

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



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Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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Gospel John 3:1-17

Jesus teaches a Pharisee named Nicodemus about the kingdom of the triune God, who rules in the heart of all those who are born again. 3

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

9"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

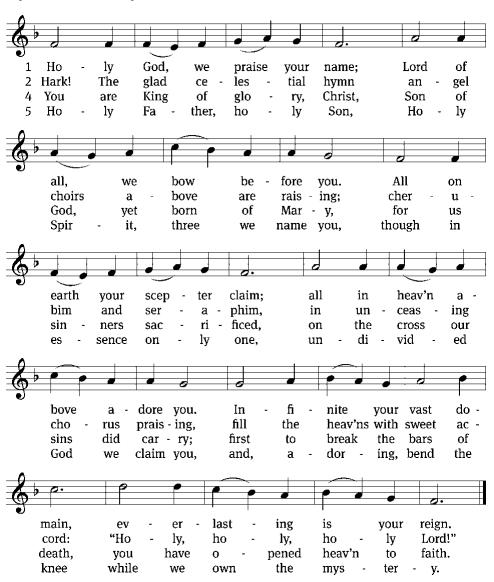
¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

Holy God, We Praise Your Name sts. 1-2, 4-5



Text: tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, alt.; German version, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, abr.; Latin, c. 4th cent. Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, alt.

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Please stand

Holy Trinity Sunday Dialogue

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.

Psalm 104:14

The Lord makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

Galatians 4:4

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Christ has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

Matthew 20:28

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:5

In the same way, the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! From him and through him and for him are all things.

Romans 11:36

To him be the glory forever! 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.

Triune God, you are the one eternal God, whose name we praise forever. We would not have known you if you had not revealed yourself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons, yet one God. Remove from us all doubt and grant us humble faith as we contemplate this high and holy mystery.

Enlighten and empower us to worship you as the triune God, the holy Trinity.

God our Father, whatever good is in us, whatever good things we have, and whatever good we do comes from you alone. In you we live and move and have our being.

Open our eyes to see the gifts you provide every day purely out of your own love and care.

Lord Jesus our Savior, you came into our world to make the Father known to us. You joined yourself to us by taking on our humanity and brought us back to God by shedding your blood. In love you walked the way of suffering and carried the wrath of God that we deserved because of our sins. Help us believe that all you did and all you endured you did to rescue us and set us free.

In the bright new hope of your resurrection teach us to offer our lives in praise to God and love to our neighbor.

Creator Spirit, you breathed into us new life by the power of the gospel, opened our eyes to see the light of your grace, and filled our minds with the clear sound of your voice. Through Word and sacrament lead us to understand more completely how broad and deep and high is the love of God in Christ Jesus. Firm up our resolve to do battle with Satan and sin. In every weakness be our strength, that we may show ourselves to be God's children: faithful in prayer, constant in hope, and fervent in love.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Holy Trinity, you are the God of glory, the God of grace, and the God of all comfort.

We rejoice to call you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and praise your holy name forever. Amen.

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

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.

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.

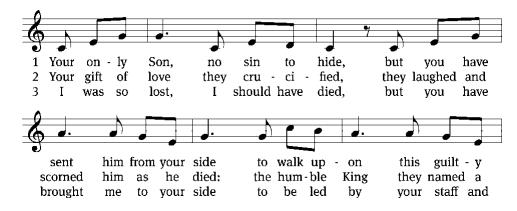
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

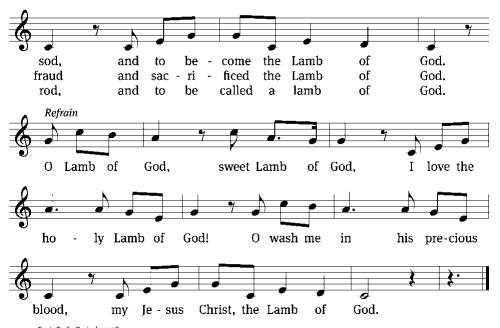
Words of Institution

The pastor speaks the words of institution according to 1 Corinthians 11. Afterward, the congregation will sing the song below.

Lamb of God

John the Baptist declared Jesus to be God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.





Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958 Tune: Twila Paris, b. 1958

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Distribution

After the song, please be seated. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction.

Please stand

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; **his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Psalm 136:1

1 Cor. 11:26

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

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

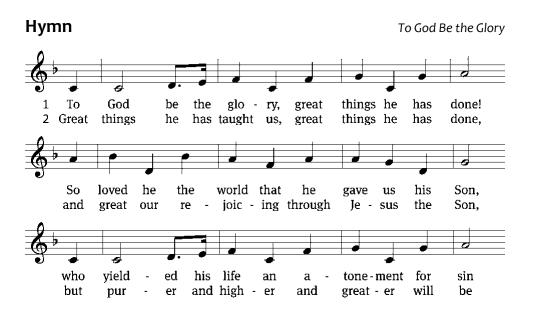
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

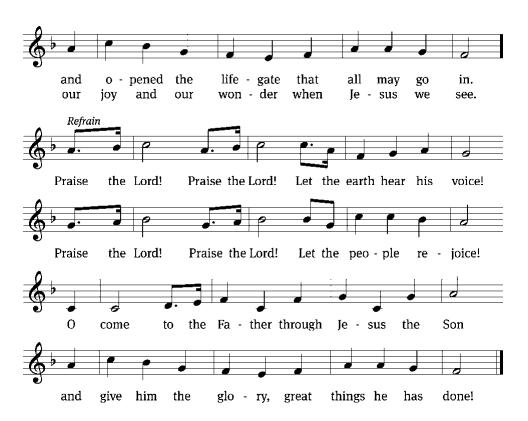
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

Numbers 6:22-27

Please be seated





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 never call on you 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 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 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! The way to share that message has changed 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. We can't rely on people to come and visit our church the way they used to. So, what's the best way to share the goodness with more people? You! While people do not trust the church as they used to, they do trust their Christian friends. Inviting people to church can be scary. Friendship Sunday is designed to make it a little less scary for you and for the one coming 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 sharing a meal together? If you are able to bring an item, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

June Newsletter

Newsletters are in the back of the sanctuary. Grab a copy on the way out.

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.

