



The Found are Left; the Lost are Found

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, September 7, 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: The Found are Left; the Lost are Found

September 14: Count the Cost

September 21: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

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: *The Found are Left; the Lost are Found*

“He’s lost.” We use that term not only to refer to someone who is bewildered about where they are but also to refer to someone who is in a helpless, hopeless state. Mankind’s natural state is one of complete spiritual helplessness, a profound lostness. It manifests itself in countless ways. The one who simply wants God to leave him alone: lost. The one who feels she can handle life on her own: lost. The one who thinks he has the right to repent of his sins on his own timetable and terms: lost. The one who thinks God owes her in some way: lost. Wandering around physically lost can lead to winding up in bad places. Jesus’ wounding words this week teach that wandering around spiritually lost puts you in the worst place of all. Fortunately, Jesus does not leave us in our lostness. He relentlessly seeks us. He involves the rest of the Christian community in seeking the lost and rejoicing over the found.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, September 7, 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;



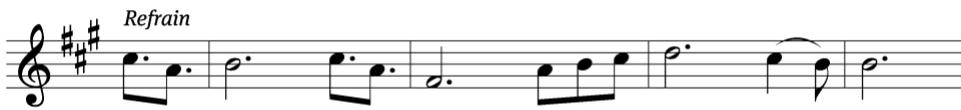
the might - y rock on which we build.
we have no mer - it we can claim.
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.



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.

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.

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.

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.”

Glory to God

Reformation Song sts. Ref, 4

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

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; 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

Hosea 3

¹The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

²So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

⁴For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

⁵If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. ⁶The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. ⁷Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

The LORD called the prophet Hosea to seek his adulterous wife and love her again. This served as an object lesson, showing our God is a God who seeks and redeems those who are lost.

A member of the church in Corinth had been lost in sin, but through loving church discipline, had been moved to repent. Paul encourages the members to joyfully welcome him back.

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
Text and tune: Public domain

Gospel

Luke 15:1–10

Through two parables, Jesus rebukes those who consider themselves already found and not in need of repentance.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in

heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Luke 15:1-10

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 speaks the Prayer of the Church and the congregation will join together 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.



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

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.

These opening words mark the beginning of the Sacrament and are among the oldest words in the liturgy.

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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. 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

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

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

Distribution

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

Thanksgiving

Psalm 136:1

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

1 Cor. 11:26

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

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

Ephesians 3:20-21

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!

Numbers 6:22

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 + give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn

How Deep the Father's Love for Us



1 How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all
2 Be-hold the Man up-on a cross, my sin up-on his
3 I will not boast in an-y-thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea-sure, that he should give his on-ly Son to
shoul-ders. A-shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call
wis-dom. But I will boast in Je-sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea-sure. How great the pain of sear-ing loss.
out a-mong the scof-fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res-ur-rec-tion. Why should I gain from his re-ward?



The Fa-ther turns his face a-way as wounds which mar the
un-til it was ac-com-plished; his dy-ing breath has
I can-not give an an-swer. But this I know with



Cho-sen One bring man-y sons to glo-ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin-ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran-som.

The congregation will repeat the last two and a half lines of the final stanza, starting with the words, "Why should I gain from his reward?"

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.

Everyone Outreach – Thank you!

Peace participated in a two-day workshop to enhance our congregation's outreach culture. Thank you for taking time out of your weekend to attend! And a special thank you to our facilitator, Kurt Nitz! Kurt Nitz is a former Michigan Tech and Peace Campus Ministry alum, and he created this workshop in coordination with the WELS director of evangelism. Thank you for coming back to Houghton and serving God with your talents. We and many other churches in WELS are very appreciative of your work.

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!



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.