



# *No One Can Serve Two Masters*

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, September 28, 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: *One Can Serve Two Masters***

There are more than 2,300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve. In fact, out of all the masters competing for our service besides God, money is probably at the top of the list. Money provides us with a false comfort and sense of security. Money serves as a source of pride. This week, Jesus’ sharp words identify the impossibility of serving more than one master. More, Jesus teaches that if we dedicate our lives in service to money, money will always let us down. In contrast, God has proven that he is a master worth serving. When we serve God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of it being a master to serve, it becomes a tool in our service of our true Master.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann and Nate Crowder  
Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, September 28, 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;



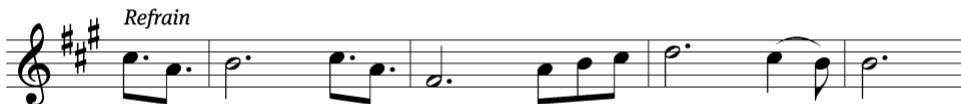
the might - y rock on which we build.  
we have no mer - it we can claim.  
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.



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. **Amen.**

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.

# 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.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first four staves contain the main verses of the hymn, and the last two staves contain the refrain. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes. There are first and second endings for the final line of the main verses.

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

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

Text and tune: © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise, admin. IntegratedRights.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

## Prayer of the Day

O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; 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

*Ecclesiastes 5:10–20*

<sup>10</sup>Whoever loves money never has enough;  
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.  
This too is meaningless.

<sup>11</sup>As goods increase,  
so do those who consume them.  
And what benefit are they to the owners  
except to feast their eyes on them?

<sup>12</sup>The sleep of a laborer is sweet,  
whether they eat little or much,  
but as for the rich, their abundance  
permits them no sleep.

<sup>13</sup>I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:  
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,  
<sup>14</sup>or wealth lost through some misfortune,  
so that when they have children  
there is nothing left for them to inherit.  
<sup>15</sup>Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,  
and as everyone comes, so they depart.  
They take nothing from their toil  
that they can carry in their hands.

<sup>16</sup>This too is a grievous evil:  
As everyone comes, so they depart,  
and what do they gain,  
since they toil for the wind?  
<sup>17</sup>All their days they eat in darkness,  
with great frustration, affliction and anger.

<sup>18</sup>This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a  
person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under  
the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot.

<sup>19</sup>Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the

King Solomon  
knew from  
experience  
that if you  
serve money,  
you will end  
up  
sorely  
disappointed.

ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. <sup>20</sup>They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Children’s Message

### Second Reading

*1 Timothy 6:6–10, 17–19*

Saint Paul teaches that serving money will lead to spiritual destruction. But serving God with our money leads to a fulfilling life.

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup>Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

<sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

<sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn of the Day

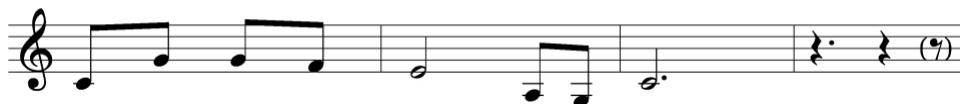
My Worth Is Not in What I Own sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 My worth is not in what I own, not  
2 My worth is not in skill or name, in  
3 As sum - mer flow'rs we fade and die; fame,



in the strength of flesh and bone, but in the  
win or lose, in pride or shame, but in the  
youth, and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e -



cost - ly wounds of love at the cross. v. 2  
blood of Christ that flowed at the cross. Refrain  
ter - nal calls to us at the cross. v. 4

*Refrain*



I re-joyce in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,



well-spring of my soul. I will trust in him, no oth - er; my



soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.

4 I will not boast in wealth or might,  
or human wisdom's fleeting light.  
But I will boast in knowing Christ  
at the cross. (Refrain)

5 Two wonders here that I confess:  
my worth and my unworthiness.  
My value fixed—my ransom paid  
at the cross. (Refrain)

## Gospel

Luke 16:1–13

All money belongs to God; he loans it to us to manage for his glory. Through a parable, Jesus teaches us to be shrewd in the way we use money to serve him.

<sup>1</sup>Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

<sup>3</sup>“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— <sup>4</sup>I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

<sup>5</sup>“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

<sup>6</sup>“ ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

<sup>7</sup>“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

<sup>8</sup>“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. <sup>9</sup>I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup>So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

<sup>13</sup>“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Sermon

Luke 16:1–13

## **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.**

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.

## **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**

*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 T give you peace.  
**Amen.**

# Hymn

## My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone



1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion;  
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp - ta - tions;  
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com - plete - ly;



a for - tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be  
when e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal -  
with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his



shak - en. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and  
va - tion. Though rich - es come and rich - es go, don't  
mer - cy. Though life is but a fleet - ing breath, a



lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on  
set your heart up - on them; the fields of hope in  
sigh too brief to mea - sure, my king has crushed the



right - eous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.  
which I sow are har - vest - ed in heav - en.  
curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

### Refrain



O praise him, hal - le - lu - jah, my de - light and my re - ward;



ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

# 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.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Wednesday, Oct 1:  | Fire and s'mores after Bible study              |
| Sunday, Oct 12:    | Hike after church                               |
| Saturday, Nov 1:   | Pickleball tournament – <b>sign up required</b> |
| Saturday, Nov 8:   | Laser tag – <b>sign up required</b>             |
| 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 Campus Ministry Meeting**

At 11:30, the Peace Campus ministry leaders will meet in the Sunday school room for their monthly meeting.

## **No Bible Study Next Week**

Pastor Welch will be out of town next week, so there will not be Sunday Bible study at 9:00.



**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](mailto:pastor@peacehoughton.org)

**[Peacehoughton.org](http://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.