



exactly what i need

A Champion

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, February 22, 2026

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: Exactly What I Need

I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

Lent Worship Series Schedule: Exactly What I Need

Ash Wednesday (February 18): Forgiveness

February 22: A Champion

March 1: Faith

March 8: Water

March 15: Sight

March 22: Life



Today's Focus: A Champion

I recognize my inability to defend myself against spiritual enemies. The world is against me, but I look for ways to imitate it. I try to master my own sinful flesh, but I recognize desires in myself that war against my soul. And when it comes to the devil, I fall into temptation again and again. My impending death proves that I have sinned. I realize that what I really need is a champion. God the Father realized it too. He sent his Son to be my Savior. Through the obedience of the Son of God, I have victory over my enemies.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Nate Crowder

Ensemble: Sack Sickman, Ella Erdmann, Emma Bohme, Nathaniel Groth, Liesel Fiebke

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE SERVICE

Hymn

Before the Throne of God Above



1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
2 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me
3 Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,



strong and per - fect plea; a great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him
spot - less right - eous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I



Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
there who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace. At one with



grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
him, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his



heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
free; for God the just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

When God's children rebel against him and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Luke 15:10

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

**In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.**

2 Corinthians
5:21-6:2

Response

Today Your Mercy Calls Us st. 1



To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
**Merciful Father in heaven,
I am altogether sinful from birth.
In countless ways I have sinned against you
and do not deserve to be called your child.
But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:
Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.
Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Silence for reflection

Our Father assures all who approach his throne of grace that none will be turned away. He swore through his prophets of long ago:

**"I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.**

Jeremiah 31:34

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.

God's promise of forgiveness was fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. As our great high priest, he was tempted as we are, yet was without sin. In his death on the cross, he redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Since there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, I say to you what God says, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

6

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For hearts set free from the condemnation of the law, for minds governed by the Spirit and not the flesh, and for lives devoted to what pleases God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that gain is loss apart from Christ and loss is gain in Christ and for perseverance to press on to take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

O all-em-bracing Mer-cy, O ev-er-o-pen Door,
what should we do with-out you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem a- gainst us, to drive us to de- spair,
we know one gate is o- pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

Having received the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, we now make our requests on the basis of his mercy.

Throughout the service, titles like "Kyrie refer to the Latin names for the ancient text of the church's liturgy.



The Word

Prayer

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Reading

Genesis 3:1–15

God promised
to send a
champion to
do what I
could not,
defeating my
greatest
enemy.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Romans 5:12–19

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

¹³To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment

As an eyewitness to the majesty and glory of Jesus, St. Peter testifies to the reliability of the Christian faith.

followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

¹⁸Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

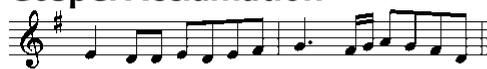
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 3:8

Normally, we
prepare to
hear the
words and
works of
Jesus by
standing and
singing
"Alleluia" –
praise the
Lord.



Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

During Lent,
"alleluias" are
omitted.

Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

The champion of demons and the champion of mankind do battle. Jesus wins.

Hymn of the Day

200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
he holds the field for - ev - er.
one lit - tle word can fell him.
the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Apostles' Creed

Credo

**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.

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.**

Please be seated.

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 † give you peace. **Amen.**

Numbers 6:22-27

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.



Winter Playgroup

Every Sunday Afternoon from February 15 to March 29, Peace will host a playgroup at Hancock Community Hub Gym. The playgroup runs from 3:00-5:00. We provide the games, toys, and fun. The only thing the parents need to do is bring the kids and relax.

Midweek Lenten Services and Dinner

During the season of Lent, we will hold midweek Lenten services every Wednesday from February 18 to March 25. Dinners will be served at 5:00, and the services will start at 6:00.

If you are interested in helping to serve a meal, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
February 22	Cesar	Craig	Nate	x	Heather	Grace
Feb 25 (Midweek)	Cody	Steve	Zack	x		NA
March 1	Steve	Cody	Mary Ann	x	Sarah Robb	help needed
March 4 (Midweek)	Cody	Scott	Mary Ann	x		NA
March 8	Cesar	Craig	Mary Ann	x	Lesley/Janet	help needed
March 11 (Midweek)	Cody	Steve	Zack	x		NA
March 15	Steve	Cody	Nate	x	Gabriela	help needed



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.