



We Can See Things Clearly

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, May 4, 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: Because He Lives!

Easter Day: Death Has Lost Its Sting

April 27: We Have a Meaningful Mission

May 4: We Can See Things Clearly

May 11: We Know Jesus is Trustworthy and True

May 18: We Live Lives of Lavish Love

May 25: We Have Deep and Lasting Joy

June 1: He Reigns Over Everything for the Benefit of His Church

June 8: Christ Creates Unity within Diversity

Today's Focus: *We Can See Things Clearly*

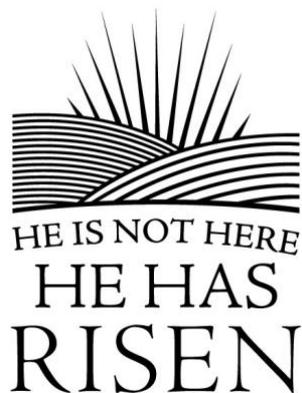
A recent survey asked Americans which of the five senses they would least like to lose. 77% chose sight. Navigating life blind poses a plethora of challenges that the sighted do not face. This is why Scripture often uses the concept of blindness as a metaphor for how hard it is to navigate life without a correct understanding of Christ. Spiritual blindness can take many different forms. In some cases, it is hostile opposition to the message of Jesus. In others, spiritual blindness might be demonstrated in confusion about Jesus' true identity. In still others, spiritual blindness might be the inability to understand our spiritual condition.

No matter the form spiritual blindness takes, Easter has the power to replace it with sight. Easter allows us to see where we sinners stand with a holy God. It enables us to see the path through life that is worth pursuing (as opposed to those that lead to a dead end). Spiritual sight gives us the ability to see who holds our future in his hands and who is worth our eternal worship. Because he lives, we can see things clearly.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch





THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

The Third Sunday After Easter

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-4



1 How can it be, the One who died has borne our
2 For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis -
3 Where doubt and dark - ness once had been, they saw him
4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the



sin through sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry
ci - ples lift their eyes. A - live he stands, their
and their hearts be - lieved. But blest are those who
truth and pow'r of grace and pour - ing out their



sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 2
friend and King; Christ, Christ, he is ris - en!
have not seen, yet sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 4
lives they gained life, life ev - er - last ing.



Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -



lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:



"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed."

v. 3/v. 5

Please stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus!
For all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for,
and certain of what we do not see.

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Confession and Absolution

As we come into the presence of God, we confess all our sins, including the many times we have often been unsure about God's promises.
Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Silence for meditation and reflection

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

Galatians 3:27

Hebrews 11:1

Psalms 118:24

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.

Romans 10:10 It is with your heart that you believe and are justified;
And it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1 Peter 1:18-21 You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Acts 10:43 **Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**

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.

John 20:29 Your Savior also says, "Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed."

John 20:31 **"I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; by believing I have life in his name."**

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 5, Ref

5 The pow'r that raised him from the grave now works in
us to pow'r - f'ly save. He frees our hearts to
live his grace; go, tell of his good - ness.

to Verses | to Refrain

Refrain

Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -

lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:

"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." *(Fine)*

v. 3/v. 5

Text: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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Prayer

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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





The Word

First Reading

Acts 9:1–22

To get his attention, Jesus struck Saul blind. Then he not only restored Saul's physical sight but also gave Saul spiritual sight. Saul was given faith in the One who had risen from the dead.

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell

from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²²Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹²In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

¹⁴The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

While in exile on the island of Patmos, St. John was given special sight, the ability to see the sacrificial Lamb who is worthy of our worship and praise.

Please stand

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

Gospel Acclamation

After a brief introduction, the congregation joins in singing the refrains.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ Jesus has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 2:10

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Many of the disciples first met Jesus while fishing near the Sea of Galilee. At the time they were spiritually blind, not realizing who Jesus was. The resurrected Jesus now appears again to these disciples while they are fishing, and this time they see him clearly through eyes of faith.

Gospel

John 21:1–14

¹Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

Glory Be to God the Father



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to
2 Glo - ry be to him who loved us, washed us from each
3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, glo - ry to the
4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! thus the choir of



God the Son, glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:
spot and stain; glo - ry be to him who bought us,
Church's King, glo - ry to the King of na - tions;
an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!



great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,
made us kings with him to reign! Glo - ry,
heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,
thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,



glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run!
glo - ry to the Lamb that once was slain!
glo - ry to the King of glo - ry sing!
glo - ry, glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865–1919
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 21:1-14

Please stand

Confession of Faith

Apostle's 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.**

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!

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 in the Lord's prayer.

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.

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, ²¹ to him be glory
in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and
ever! **Amen.**

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.

Please be seated

Hymn

Holy Is Your Name sts. 1, Ref, 3-5



1 My _____ soul is filled with joy as I
3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

Refrain



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt.
Tune: Scottish
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Summer Backpacking Trip to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore – August 20-22

Members of Peace, MTU, and NMU students are invited to come to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for three days and two nights. The cost is only \$20. You can sign up online or at the table in the entryway.

Volunteers Needed for Pastor's Conference Meals

On May 6-7, approximately 35 pastors will gather at Peace for a pastors' conference.

We need volunteers to help provide two meals for the pastors. One meal on Tuesday at noon will be potluck-style from the members of Peace, and a to-go lunch on Wednesday at 11:30 AM. If you are willing to help with food preparation or serving on either of these days, please speak to Pastor Welch or Amy Spahn.