



He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, April 26, 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.

Current Worship Series: What Difference Does it Make?

Easter Day: *He lives to take me from death to life*

April 12: *He lives to give me proof and peace*

April 19: *He lives to restore my hope*

April 26: *He lives to be my Good Shepherd*

May 3: *He lives to be the only way to heaven*

May 10: *He lives to call me to live for him*

May 17: *He lives to rule all things for the Church*

May 24: *He lives to give me eager expectation of glory*

May 31: *He lives to pour out his Spirit*

Series Theme: What Difference Does It Make?

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. “The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin.

But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50-day celebration of that fact.

Today’s Focus: *He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd*

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to choose my own direction in life. I would be terrible at it, because, like a sheep, I can generally see only what’s in front of me at the moment, and get myself into trouble. It is especially difficult for me to look far into my future as planned by Jesus. If he had not risen from the dead, I would be on my own.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. I have the reliable direction of the Good Shepherd. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from the roaring lion, Satan. He is leading us into the green pastures of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed this Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that Jesus lives to be our Good Shepherd.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch

Guest Pastor: Phil Paustian



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



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



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



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



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

4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
they preached the truth and pow'r of grace
and pouring out their lives they gained
life, life everlasting. (Refrain)

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 goodness. (Refrain)

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

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

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Please stand

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

We are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Let us confess that often we have lived for ourselves, confident in the forgiveness of him who lived, died, and rose for us.

**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.**

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

*2 Corinthians
5:14,15*

Absolution

1 Corinthians
15:17-20

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

After his resurrection, Christ commanded his church to proclaim his forgiveness, promising that their words were as certain as his. Therefore, by Christ's command and with his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

1 Corinthians
15:54,55

Death has been swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?
Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

After a brief introduction, the congregation sings:

**6 The life he lived is mine to claim
No sins, no death, I rise through faith
The guilt is gone, the shame removed
Now, I live in freedom.**

Refrain:

**Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!
Oh, sing "hallelujah!"
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
"Christ is risen, he is risen indeed."**



Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated



The Word

First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Good Shepherd's flock grew as people devoted themselves to the apostolic teaching.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

St. Peter calls on us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer even if it means we will suffer for doing good.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

Please stand

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.

John 10:14

Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.
Alleluia.

Refrain



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

Gospel

John 10:1–10

¹“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the gate through which we enter the green pastures of salvation.

Hymn of the Day

436 *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can
3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'_as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and
take us from your hand; speak— we hear— at
life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our
joy will fol - low on, till the work of
sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.
your com - mand, we will fol - low you.
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
grace is done, there to live with you.
ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt.

Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

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.

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.

**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

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

Hymn

375 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
Sav - ior gent - ly leads me, and where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der
you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feeds me.
gent - ly laid and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, your cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 You spread a table in my sight,
a banquet here bestowing;
your oil of welcome, my delight;
my cup is overflowing!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.

Tune: Irish, 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Foundations of Faith Class

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) or scan the QR code. 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.



Volunteer Schedule

| Date | Usher | Counter | Computer | Snacks |
|----------|-------|---------|----------|--------------|
| April 26 | Cesar | Cody | Mary Ann | Heather |
| May 3 | Steve | Scott | Mary Ann | Sarah Robb |
| May 10 | Cody | Craig | Mary Ann | Lesley/Janet |
| May 17 | Steve | Steve | Mary Ann | Gabriela |

Backpacking Trip

Every summer, a group of students and members go backpacking the week before the fall semester. This summer, we will head to the Porcupine Mountains on August 26-28th. If you are interested in this trip, you can find more information or register by searching for the event in the app/website or by scanning the QR code.

Guest Preacher

Thank you, Phil Paustian, for leading us in worship today! Pastor Paustian is a retired pastor who lives in Escanaba. He is a member of Salem Lutheran Church.

Pastor Welch Out of Town

Pastor Welch and family are attending a 25-year anniversary Celebration at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Asheville, NC. This is the church where he served as a vicar (pastoral intern) while studying at the seminary.



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.