



***From the Tiniest Seed Grows the
Largest Kingdom***

Peace Lutheran Church
Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, June 16, 2024

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: A Top-Down Faith

May 19: *Trust Your Ears More than Your Eyes*

May 26: *Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer*

June 2: *Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned*

June 9: *The Devil Does His Worst, Yet Jesus Always Wins*

June 16: *From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom*

June 23: *Our Gracious God Is with Us through All the Storms of Life*

June 30: *The Living Lord Completely Changes Our View of Death*

Series Explanation: A Top-Down Faith

The phrase “from the top down” is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those “at the top” are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top town.

We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith. Christian teachings come “from the top down,” but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a “top-down faith,” we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn’t possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

Today’s Focus: *From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom*

Usually, a kingdom advances and is secured through things like military might or political force or worldly wealth. It can be tempting to believe the same holds true in the kingdom of God. Perhaps we think churches would flourish if we had the right rulers passing and enforcing the right laws. Or we believe that for a church to do good requires a robust budget. Political force. Worldly wealth. This way of thinking is breathtakingly wrong.

We need God to give us the top-down faith that grasps the fact that kingdom of God advances in ways that are imperceptible. Through something that seems insignificant to most—the gospel—the King of kings establishes his reign in human hearts. Even Jesus himself taught that the gospel seems unimpressive, for he often compared the gospel to a tiny seed. Yet within a seed is hidden life. As the seed of the gospel is planted, the largest of all kingdoms grows.

Preparation for the Lord’s Supper

God wants his people to prepare the sacrament of Holy Communion because it is a powerful meal. For a personal examination guide, see page 156 in the red hymnal.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

June 16, 2024, The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Hymn

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, o - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, while we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; you must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.; (st. 4):
Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, Berlin, 1707
Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

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

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.

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.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God.

And that is what we are! Thanks be to God!

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

1 John 1:8

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.

1 John 3:1

Glory to God

Reformation Song sts. 2, Ref, 3, Ref

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."

2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you;
3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;

we have no mer - it we can claim.
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.

Sure that your prom - is - es are true,
Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;

we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
his per - fect work has set us free.

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.

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; 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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.”

Through the prophet Ezekiel, the LORD promised that the kingdom of God would grow large and strong and provide safety and shelter for God’s people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:3-8

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

We thank God that the seed of the gospel is producing fruit throughout the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

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

Alleluia. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. Alleluia.

Speak, O Lord st. 3



3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Text and tune: © 2006 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

The kingdom grows when the seed is sown. The Word works.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening



1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life
let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my
that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your



through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er
Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who
light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my
praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est



be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.
sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–1683; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (sts. 2–3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Mark 4:26-34

Please stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene 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 in 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.

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 in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

These opening words mark the beginning of the Sacrament and are among the oldest words in the liturgy. Christians have been speaking these words to each other for thousands of years.

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

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

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, they laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died: the hum - ble King they named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the
ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious
blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958

Tune: Twila Paris, b. 1958

Text and tune: © 1985 Mountain Spring/Straightway Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: Peace Ev. Lutheran Church no. A-734944

Distribution

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

Please stand

Thanksgiving

Psalm 136:1

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

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

1 Cor. 11:26

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

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Hymn

I Run to Christ

1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref-uge
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re-
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -
sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives
cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion
wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and
find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he
find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the
find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he
gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.
Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.
pleads my case—my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

Text and tune: © 2010 Church Works Media (adm. at IntegratedRights.com). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

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.



Brat Fry and Friendship Sunday – June 22 and 23

We have good news that we want to share! Strategies to share that message have changed drastically in the last 15-20 years. Simply put, people do not trust large institutions or churches the way that they used to. That means the old church outreach model will no longer be very effective. So, what's the best way to share the good news with more people? You! While people do not trust the church like they used to, they do trust you, their Christian friend. Inviting people to church can be scary. Friendship Sunday is designed to make it a little less scary for you and for your friend or family member who comes to Peace for the first time. Consider inviting your friends or family members to Friendship Sunday so we can share the good news with them too!

Friendship Sunday Potluck

We want our new friends at Peace to feel welcomed and enjoy their time here. What better way to extend the hand of friendship than by sharing a meal together? If you are able to bring an item, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

Sunday Bible Study – Growing in Grace and Knowledge

The goal of this study is twofold. First, “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” will hopefully help you grow in your understanding of Christian living by looking at a variety of topics pertaining to Christian life. The first topic is Christian Living itself. The Subsequent topics are **Prayer, Worship, Church, Stewardship, family, The World, and Evangelism.**

The second goal of "Growing in Grace and Knowledge" is to make you more comfortable with personal Bible study. Each topic contains five lessons, for a total of forty. Each lesson consists of a portion of Scripture that you will look up during the week leading up to Sunday. You will be answering questions, underlining Bible verses, and even making notes in your Bible. Hopefully, over the course of the forty lessons, you will become more comfortable with the process of studying Scripture.

As you consider coming to Sunday Bible study, here are my promises to you:

- I will work extremely hard to make sure you feel comfortable.
- I will gently push you to grow in grace and knowledge by making Bible studies relevant, timely, and interesting.
- You are not expected to know anything at all.
- There truly is no such thing as a bad question, so I will never make fun of anything anyone says.
- I never call on anyone to read.
- I will never call on anyone to answer in front of the group unless they want to.
- My goal is for you to relax and be fed by God’s word.
- I am going to have a blast!
- There will be coffee!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright

© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.[™] Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

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

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

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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

47745 Mill Rd.
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: 906-482-1602

Pastor Welch Cell: 906-231-6835

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.

