

# THE LIVING LORD COMPLETELY CHANGES OUR VIEW OF DEATH

Peace Lutheran Church Houghton, Michigan Sunday, June 30, 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: Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned

June 2: Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer

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: The Living Lord Completely Changes our View of Death

Most people fear death to some degree. Some fear death because they assume it is the end. Others fear death because they assume it isn't the end at all, but that there is some sort of reckoning after death which might not go well for them. And have you seen what happens to a dead body? It is far from pretty. So, it is understandable that most people would fear death.

Not so for those to whom God has given a top-down faith. Christianity teaches that for God's children death is not discipline but deliverance. The living Lord gives Christians such a radically different view of death that they can have confidence to face death in their effort to give Christ glory. They understand that death does not cut us down, but only raises us up. Finally, the Christian has been given the top-down faith that believes Jesus can wake us from death as easily as we can wake a sleeping child from his nap.

#### **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch

#### THE SERVICE

Hymn Day by Day 1 Day bring - ing com - fort bv day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, 2 Day by day, I know you will pro-vide me strength to serve and 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur-dens the bless-ings, Lord, vou mv anx-ious soul. Day by day, to your lov - ing will to wis - dom to will seek o - bev; I grow too great to oh, what joy to know that you will bear; send me draw me near er to my heav'n - ly goal. Ι guide o'er the paths strug - gle me day day. hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Love di - vine, be-yond all mor-tal mea-sure, brings to naught the I will fear no e - vil of the mor-row, I will trust in Day by day, no mat-ter what be-tide me, you will hold me bur - dens of my quest; Sav-ior, lead me to the home I me bear life's pain and your en - dur - ing grace. Sav-ior, help ev - er in your hand. Sav-ior, with your pres-ence here to where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest. trea - sure, sor - row till in glo ry I be - hold your face.

guide

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Please stand

Invocation

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.

**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. 1 John 1:8

1 John 1:9

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.

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.

The use of the

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.

1 John 3:1

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

#### Glory to God

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."



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

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#### **Prayer**

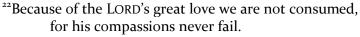
God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Please be seated.

### The Word

#### **First Reading**

Lamentations 3:22-33



<sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

<sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;

<sup>26</sup>it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young.

<sup>28</sup>Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him.

<sup>29</sup>Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope.

<sup>30</sup>Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace.

<sup>31</sup>For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. <sup>32</sup>Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,



God's people were suffering. But the prophet Jeremiah knew that suffering and impending death can focus our attention on what matters—the I ORD's compassion and salvation. so great is his unfailing love.

33For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **Second Reading**

2 Corinthians 4:7-15

St. Paul knew that serving Christ might result in death. But he also knew the one who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us. <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup>We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup>For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup>So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

<sup>13</sup>It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. <sup>15</sup>All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

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

#### Children's Lesson

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him. Alleluia.

\*\*Lamentations 3:25\*\*



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** Mark 5:21–24a,35–43

Jesus came to oppose Satan and his allies and undo all their work.

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. <sup>23</sup>He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." <sup>24</sup>So Jesus went with him.

<sup>35</sup>While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

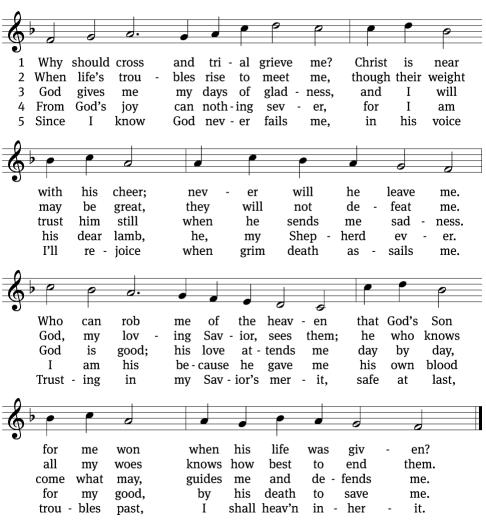
<sup>36</sup>Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

<sup>37</sup>He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." <sup>40</sup>But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). <sup>42</sup>Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. <sup>43</sup>He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!** 

Please be seated



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (st. 4): tr. Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955; (st. 5): tr. Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945

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Please stand

#### **Apostles' Creed**

**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.

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!

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.

#### **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

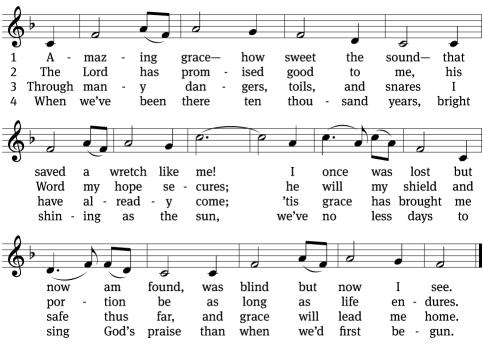
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Numbers 6:22-27

**Hymn** Amazing Grace



Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman 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.



### New Worship Series Beginning Next Week – Meaningful Ministry

"Ministry" is one of those churchy words that is often used, yet perhaps not fully understood. Ministry comes from the Latin word for "service." Ministry involves serving others with love, compassion, and empathy. Helping someone with physical needs is sometimes called "compassion ministry." Helping someone with their spiritual needs, sharing the good news of Christ, is generally called "gospel ministry." We misunderstand ministry if we think of it as something only ministers do. While pastors are called to perform gospel ministry on behalf of others, ultimately every believer is called by God to reflect Christ-like love and share the message of salvation as God provides those opportunities.

In this worship series we will see our efforts to meet the needs of those God brings into our sphere of influence as meaningful ministry. In our service to them, those people see God's love and God sees our faith.

#### Acknowledgments

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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.

