

IDENTITY

revealed

Jesus Calls You Salt and Light

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, February 8, 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: Epiphany Moments

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

Worship Series Schedule: Identity Revealed

January 11: Jesus Is the Christ, the Anointed One
January 18: Jesus Is the Lamb of God
January 25: Jesus Is the Christ, the One Who Calls
February 1: Jesus Calls You Blessed
February 8: Jesus Calls You Salt and Light
February 15: Jesus is the Son of God in Glory

Today's Focus: Jesus Calls You Salt and Light

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that form and function are closely connected. That means that who we are influences what we do. When God called us to faith, he declared that we were something new: light, salt, his children. Jesus encourages us to be what God says we are as a way of blessing the world through us.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann
Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

For Sunday, February 8, 2026

Hymn

234 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
reign - ing and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, health has be - stowed and, when heed-less - ly
fend you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear now to his
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen how all that's
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do as with his love he be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, Stralsund, 1665, alt

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † 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

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.

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

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.

By Jesus' command and authority, 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.**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1

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

Hymn of Praise

Christ Begins

This song of praise takes us through the Epiphany season. Stanza 1: the Baptism of Jesus (Epiphany 1); stanza 2: the Wedding at Cana (Epiphany 2); stanza 3: Transfiguration (Last Sunday of Epiphany); refrain: the Season of Epiphany.

1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.
2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.
3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.
4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain - side.

Wa - ter runs and all heav - en
Yet six jars are filled with the
Clothes like light - ning white,
Watch the clos - ing clouds heav - en
hide him

o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?
o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

Refrain

Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a
light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my
God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

Please be seated.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



The Word

Reading

Exodus 19:1-8a

¹On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.”

God made something special out of Israel, a nation of slaves.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

St. Peter
encourages us
to be what
God has
declared us to
be.

Reading

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

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

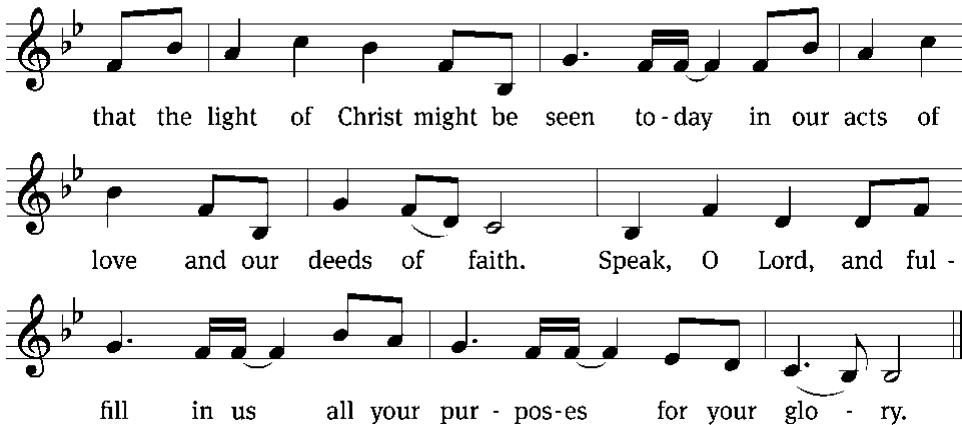
Alleluia. Let your light shine before others, that they may see
your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Alleluia.

Matthew 5:16

Speak, O Lord st. 1



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,



Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus explains that his disciples are blessings to this dark, decaying world.

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

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

280 Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



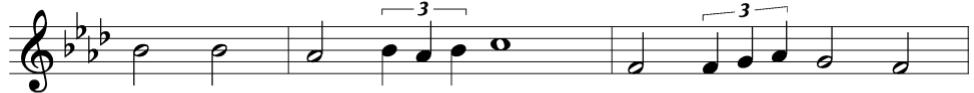
speak-ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 forth in con-qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end! 10
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Apostles' 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!

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.

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 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.**

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.

Hymn

May the Peace of God

1 May the peace of God our heav'n-ly Fa - ther,
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,
and this grace which makes us what we are,
and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion
keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.
make us one in spir - it and in heart.

Refrain

And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain -
Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

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.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
February 8	Cesar	Scott	Zack	x	Karin	Ivy
February 15	Steve	Steve	Nate	x	Amy Spahn	help needed
Feb 18 (Ash Wednesday)	Cody	Cody	Zack	x		NA
February 22	Cesar	Craig	Nate	x	Heather	help needed
Feb 25 (Midweek)	Cody	Steve	Zack	x		NA
March 1	Steve	Cody	Mary Ann	x	Sarah Robb	help needed

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. For six weeks, 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.

Council Meeting on Thursday at 7:00



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.