



*We Have Deep and Lasting Joy*

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, May 25, 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 Have Deep and Lasting Joy***

Conventional wisdom says that joy is a direct result of circumstance. Our disposition is nothing more than the product of the events, conditions, and relationships of which our life consists. Therefore, it would seem that for our disposition to change, our circumstances need to change. But Jesus offers a joy that is superior. It is not a product of circumstance; it's a product of Easter.

Easter proves that God can take what normally causes people to weep and turn it into what causes people to rejoice. Sin, death, and shame went into Jesus' tomb. Forgiveness, life, and glory came out. Our risen Savior gives us a joy that remains constant in the highest of life's highs and the lowest of life's lows. Because he lives, we have deep and lasting joy.

### **Service Participants:**

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

## *The Sixth Sunday After Easter*

### Hymn

*In Christ Alone* sts. 1-3



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my  
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of  
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -  
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.  
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.  
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are  
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of  
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in  
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was  
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.  
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.  
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.

*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."

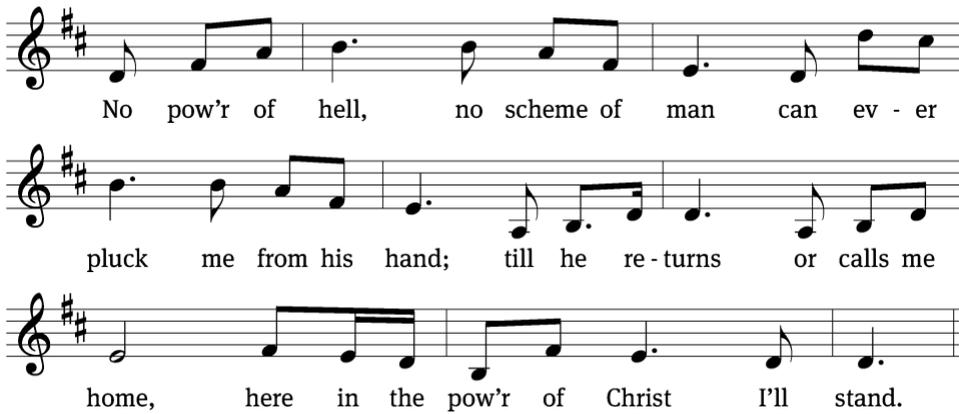
John 20:31 **"I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; by believing I have life in his name."**

There is no introduction to the song, so the congregation will sing as the music begins.

## Hymn

*In Christ Alone st. 4*

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the  
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal  
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er  
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me  
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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

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

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## Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; 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





As a witness of Christ's resurrection, Paul's joy and his ministry were unaffected by circumstance.

# The Word

## First Reading

Acts 14:8–22

<sup>8</sup>In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup>He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup>and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup>When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” <sup>12</sup>Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup>The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

<sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup>“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup>In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup>Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” <sup>18</sup>Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

<sup>19</sup>Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. <sup>20</sup>But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

<sup>21</sup>They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Lesson

## Second Reading

Revelation 21:21–27

<sup>21</sup>The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

<sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

<sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup>On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup>Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The great joy we have now will soon be made perfect and complete.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*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.

Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

*Refrain*

Psalm 30:5



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

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

John 16:16–24

Jesus promises that our grief will be turned to perfect joy.

<sup>16</sup>Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

<sup>17</sup>At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup>They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

<sup>19</sup>Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’?” <sup>20</sup>Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup>A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# Hymn of the Day

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice sts. 1-4, 7-8



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, with ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; death brood-ed dark - ly  
3 My own good works a - vailed me naught, no mer - it they at -  
4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun -



spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my  
tain - ing; my will a - gainst God's judg-ment fought, no hope for  
da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, pro-claim the won - ders God has done, how  
moth - er bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still I fell; life  
me re - main - ing. My fears in-creased till sheer de - spair left  
my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought



his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!  
had be - come a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
on - ly death to be my share and hell to be my sen - tence.  
my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.

7 To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me,  
I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I myself will be;  
for you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, your friend divine,  
and evermore you shall be mine;  
the foe shall not divide us.

8 "The foe will shed my precious blood,  
me of my life bereaving;  
all this I suffer for your good;  
be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict'ry win;  
my innocence shall bear your sin,  
and you are blest forever.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-1887, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

John 16:16–24

## Confession of Faith

Apostle's 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.**

## 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 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

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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

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*

# Hymn

O Church, Arise



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the  
2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to  
3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the  
4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that  
rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the  
Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -  
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.  
wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.  
neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!  
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -  
When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the  
And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -  
As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle  
out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for  
merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues  
tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.  
which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.  
till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.  
for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

# 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.



## Voter's Meeting

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a voter's meeting after worship. We will discuss and approve the budget for the next fiscal year.

## New Member Welcome

Peace hosts a new member welcome potluck about twice a year. Since there are quite a few new faces at Peace these days, our next new member potluck will be on June 22<sup>nd</sup> after worship. A signup sheet will be on the table in the entryway.

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**[Peacehoughton.org](http://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.