

resurrection **REALity**

We Have a Meaningful Message to Share

Peace Lutheran Church
Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, April 14, 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: Easter Reality

Easter Sunday: *Easter is of First Importance*

April 7: *The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace*

April 14: *We Have a Meaningful Message to Share*

April 21: *The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding*

April 28: *The Living Lord Produces Active Faith*

May 5: *Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours*

May 12: *Christ's Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever*

May 19: *We Will Overcome This Broken World*

Today's Focus: *We Have a Meaningful Message to Share*

A platitude is a statement aimed at helping soothe some sort of emotional unease. “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Or “Life is a mystery.” Or “Good things come to those who wait.” While platitudes may be well-intentioned, at best they come off as trite. And since platitudes provide no real help, they can actually make a situation worse. Tell the one whose heart is shattering, “Life is a mystery.” They won’t appreciate your platitude or you.

The resurrection gives believers the ability to offer more than platitudes. We have a meaningful message to share—of repentance, of forgiveness, of peace, of power. The reality is we have something important to say to every single person that God brings into our sphere of influence. And our risen Savior gives us the courage and power to share that meaningful message.

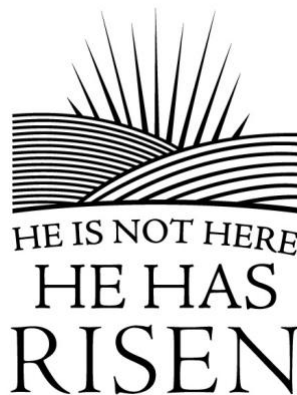
Preparation for the Lord’s Supper

God wants his people to prepare the sacrament of Holy Communion because it’s a powerful meal. See page 156 in the red hymnal for a personal examination guide.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



Each Sunday, the *Today's Focus* is based on the three readings in the middle of the service. We do not base our worship themes on clever ideas or interesting topics but on the word of God found in the readings that Christians have been using in worship for thousands of years.

It may be helpful for the worshipper to read the three readings prior to the service. As you do, notice how all three readings are tied together under the common theme that serves as *Today's Focus*.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

The Third Sunday After Easter

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-4



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
4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the



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
truth and pow'r of grace and pour - ing out their



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
lives they gained life, life ev - er - last ing.



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

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."**

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 5, Ref

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 good - ness.

to Verses | to Refrain

Refrain

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:

(Fine)

"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." v. 3/v. 5

Text: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974
 Tune: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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Prayer of the Day

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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

Acts 3:11–20

¹¹While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷"Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Peter healed a crippled beggar, drawing a large crowd. Peter used that opportunity to share a meaningful message about the one the people of Jerusalem asked Pilate to crucify.

Second Reading

1 John 1:5—2:2

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

St. John summarizes the meaningful message we have heard and been called to declare: God is light.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

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.

The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.

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

Luke 24:46-47

Refrain



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

Gospel

Luke 24:36–49

The risen Savior gives us peace. He also gives us a mission. We are to share the message of repentance and forgiveness.

³⁶While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

Christ the Lord Is Risen Again



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n a - gain; Christ has bro - ken
2 He who gave for us his life, who for us en -
3 He who bore all pain and loss com - fort - less up -
4 He whose path no rec - ords tell has de - scend - ed



death's strong chain. Hark, the an - gels shout for joy,
dured the strife, is our Pas - chal Lamb to - day.
on the cross lives in glo - ry now on high,
in - to hell; he the strong man armed has bound



sing - ing ev - er - more on high: Hal - le - lu - jah!
We too sing for joy and say: Hal - le - lu - jah!
pleads for us, and hears our cry: Hal - le - lu - jah!
and in high - est heav'n is crowned. Hal - le - lu - jah!

5 He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings.
Hallelujah!

6 Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiv'n,
how we, too, may enter heav'n.
Hallelujah!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534, abr.
Tune: Latin, c. 1100, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

1 John 1:5–2:2

Please stand

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.

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!

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 + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story sts. 1, Ref, 2-3



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 O won - der - ful re - demp - tion! The price for sin is paid,
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
sal - va - tion is ac - com - plished, my heart is un - a - fraid,
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know it's true;
for God has raised Christ Je - sus to show the work was done;
And when in scenes of glo - ry I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
his glo - rious res - ur - rec - tion de - clared the vic - t'ry won!
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text (sts. 1-3): Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835-1912, refrain
Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Foundations of Faith: New Round of Classes Starting April 16

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, but if you would like to attend with a group, the next session will begin on April 16.

To get plugged in or to request more information, contact Pastor Welch (pastor@peacehoughton.org). Childcare is available upon request.

Newsletters

They are in the back. Grab you're your copy on the way out.

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.



Upcoming Events

- Men's Morning Bible Study – every Tuesday morning at 6:30
- Voter's Meeting – April 14th after worship
- Member Student Bowling - April 14, 12:15 pm – 3:00 pm
- Foundations of Faith Class – April 16, 5:30 pm
- Laser Tag and Bonfire/Cookout – April 20, 4:00 pm - whenever

Acknowledgments

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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.

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