



**OUR GRACIOUS GOD IS WITH US
THROUGH ALL THE STORMS OF LIFE**

Peace Lutheran Church
Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, June 23, 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: *Our Gracious God Is with Us through All the Storms of Life*

A powerful tornado rolls through your neighborhood. A massive hurricane heads straight for your city. A bolt of lightning sends 300 million volts to earth. The raw power and unpredictability of storms can inspire both awe and terror. We cannot stop storms from coming. We can only hope to survive them. However, we know the Almighty God can stop storms. He can calm literal storms. He could remove metaphorical storms, other types of troubles and trials. So, if he can, why doesn’t he?

Well, would you rather have a God who was distant from you but removed all the storms of life? Or would you rather have a God who allowed some storms to come but promised to be right there by your side within them, holding you close? May God give us the top-down faith that sees that the latter is by far the better option. God promises to be with us through all the storms of life. Sometimes he removes them. But when he doesn’t, it’s only because he has plans to use even storms for our eternal good.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE SERVICE

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

Invocation

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

Please stand

Opening Dialogue

We give thanks unto you, O God of might:
for your love is never-ending.

We give thanks unto you, the God of gods,
for your love is never-ending.

The opening
words are a
direct
recitation of
Psalm 136

In your wisdom and love, you shaped the skies;
You spread out the earth upon the sea;
You have filled all the skies with glory and light;
The sun for the day and moon for night.
for your love is never-ending.

From of old you have led you people in faith;
You have shown your compassion, strength, and love;
You delivered the ones who called unto you;
Form bondage to freedom, you brought them forth;
for your love is never-ending.

You remember your promise from age to age;
You show mercy on those of low degree;
You give food and life to all things;
We give thanks to you, the God of all.
for your love is never-ending. Amen

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!

1 John 3:1

Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to
2 Hith - er - to thy love has blessed me, thou hast drawn me
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -



sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
to this place; and I know thy hand will lead me
strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,



call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
safe - ly home by thy good grace. Je - sus sought me when a
bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee: prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise his
stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God; he, to
feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my



name, I'm fixed up - on it, name of God's re - deem - ing love.
res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; 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

Job 38:1-11

¹Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

²“Who is this that obscures my plans
with words without knowledge?

³Brace yourself like a man;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?
Tell me, if you understand.

⁵Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!
Who stretched a measuring line across it?

⁶On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone—

⁷while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?

⁸“Who shut up the sea behind doors
when it burst forth from the womb,

⁹when I made the clouds its garment
and wrapped it in thick darkness,

¹⁰when I fixed limits for it
and set its doors and bars in place,

Job
questioned
why God had
allowed
trouble to
befall him.
Out of a storm
the LORD
spoke
to Job,
explaining
that no mere
man has the
capacity to
understand
the wonderful
ways God
works.

¹¹when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther;
here is where your proud waves halt’?

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 27:13-26

¹³When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. ¹⁴Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. ¹⁵The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. ¹⁶As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, ¹⁷so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. ¹⁸We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. ¹⁹On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

²¹After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. ²²But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. ²³Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ ²⁵So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

St. Paul and others were on a boat in the middle of a hurricane. God did not calm the storm. Yet, he was with them in the storm, accomplishing his good and gracious work.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson and Sunday School Anthem

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 4:41

Alleluia. They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Alleluia.

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

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.

Gospel

Mark 3:35-41

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Even the winds and the waves must obey Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated



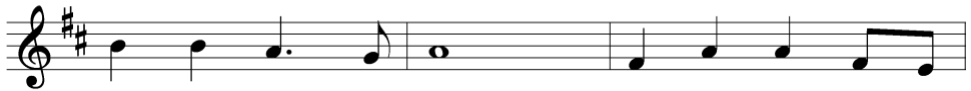
Hymn of the Day

As The Deer – Psalm 42

The vocalist will sing the first stanza and refrain. The congregation will join to sing the 2nd and 3rd refrains only.



1 As the deer pants_ for the wa - ter, so my
2 You're my friend, and_ you're my broth - er, e - ven
3 I want you more than gold or sil - ver, on - ly



soul longs af - ter you; you a - lone are my
though you are a King. I love you more than
you can sat - is - fy. You a - lone are the



heart's de - sire_ and I long to wor - ship you.
an - y oth - er, so much more than an - y - thing.
real joy giv - er and the ap - ple of my eye.

Refrain



You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a -



lone may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my



heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.

Text: Martin Nystrom

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Sermon

Mark 3:35-41

Please stand

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.**

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.

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

*The Lord's
prayer is
found in
Matthew
6:9-13 and
Luke 11:2-5.*

**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

Numbers 6:22-27

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

Hymn

In Christ Alone



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
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is 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
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



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!
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



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
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



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
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



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.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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.

Friendship Sunday Celebration

At Peace, we pride ourselves on working very hard to make sure that guests know they are welcome here. To that end, you are invited to join us for lunch in the fellowship hall after worship. Thank you for being our guest today!

Acknowledgments

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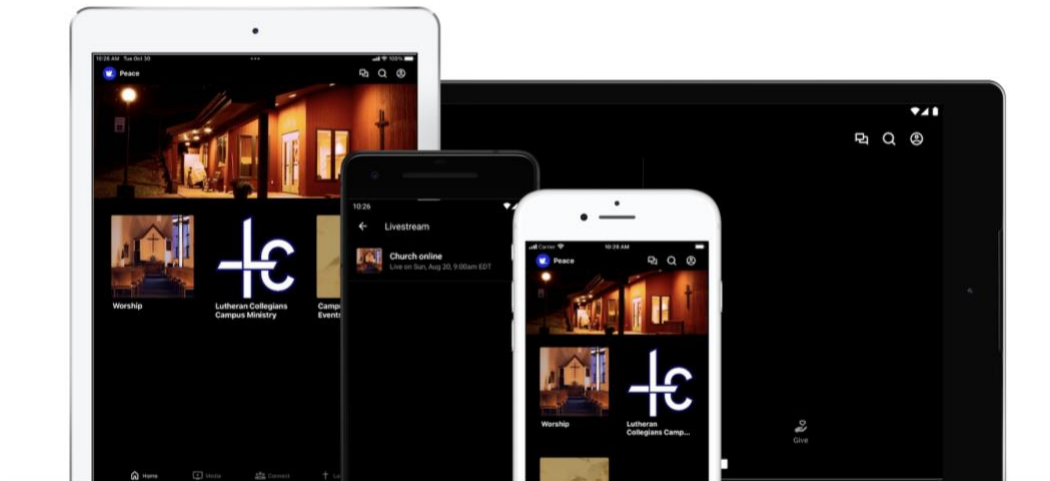


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Peacehoughton.org

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.

