

God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home

Theme of the Day: No Detours Allowed

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, March 16, 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.

Series Explanation: Open Door Policies

The door to God and the glory he has prepared for us stands wide open. However, he has mapped out a very specific pathway to that door. It is not an easy one. As it did with Jesus, this route takes us through opposition, suffering, and even death. While our human nature may cause us to want to take a detour around these things, Jesus own life shows us that no detour is allowed. His cross came before his crown. The same path lies ahead of us. However, at the end of it, through the open door, we are offered a reward far superior to anything the world can offer.

Worship Series Schedule: Open Door Policies

Ash Wednesday: *Lowering Our Defenses*

March 9: *One Stands; Everyone Else Sits*

March 16: No Detours Allowed

March 23: *Always Present, Always Patient*

March 30: *Grace Instead of Condemnation*

April 6th: *Hiding Treasure in the Trash*

Today's Focus: One Stands; Everyone Else Sits

The door to God and the glory he has prepared for us stands wide open. However, he has mapped out a very specific pathway to that door. It is not an easy one. As it did with Jesus, this route takes us through opposition, suffering, and even death. While our human nature may cause us to want to take a detour around these things, Jesus own life shows us that no detour is allowed. His cross came before his crown. The same path lies ahead of us. However, at the end of it, through the open door, we are offered a reward far superior to anything the world can offer..

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

God wants his people to prepare the sacrament of Holy Communion because it is a powerful meal. For a personal examination guide, see page 156 in the red hymnal.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann and Nate Crowder

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



ORDER OF SERVICE FOR LENT

Lent is the most contemplative season of the church year. For centuries, Christians have adapted the order of service as we acknowledge our many sins and reflect on the sacrifice our Lord Jesus made on our behalf. At the start of today's worship, we hear the comforting voice of our Savior and see his equally gracious works of peace.

Gathering Rite: Lord, Have Mercy

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

Amen.

Soloist sings:

- 1 For what we have done and left undone
we fall on your countless mercies.
For sins that are known and those unknown
we call on your name so holy.
For envy and pride, for closing our eyes;
for scorning our very neighbor.
In thought, word, and deed we've failed you, our King;
how deeply we need a Savior.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us.

All sing:

2 For what you have done, your life of love you per - fect-ly
lived, we praise you. Though tempt - ed and tried, you fixed your eyes;

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



you fin-ished the work God gave you. And there on the tree,



a King a-mong thieves, you bled for a world's be - tray-al.



You loved to the end, our mer - ci - ful friend; how



pure and for-ev - er faith-ful. Lord, have mer - cy,



Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on___ us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy



on___ us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,



Lord, have mer - cy on___ us. Lord, have mer - cy,



Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All sing:

3 For hearts that are cold, for seiz-ing con - trol; for scorn-ing our
ver - y Mak - er. In thought, word, and deed we've



failed you, our King; how deep - ly we need a Sav - ior.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on — us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on — us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on — us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Reading

Jeremiah 26:8–15

Jeremiah
knew the path
the Lord had
called him to
walk—calling
the nation to
repent—
might get him
killed. In love
for the Lord
and for his
nation,
Jeremiah
walked that
path willingly.

⁸But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! ⁹Why do you prophesy in the LORD’s name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?” And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD’s house. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, “This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!”

¹²Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. ¹³Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. ¹⁵Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

42A As the Deer

Psalm



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

Tune: Martin Nystrom

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Children's Lesson

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8

Normally, we prepare to hear the words and works of Jesus by standing and singing “Alleluia” – praise the Lord.

During Lent, “alleluias” are omitted.



Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Refrain

Gospel

Luke 13:31–35

The Pharisees offer Jesus a detour around danger and a shortcut to safety. But Jesus was determined to continue down the path he was on for us and our salvation.

³¹At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

³²He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ ³³In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest -
2 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!
3 The Christ is ev - er with them, the day-light is se - rene;



the sight of it re - fresh - es the wea - ry and op - pressed.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect,
the pas - tures of the bless - ed are ev - er rich and green.



I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,
where they who with their lead - er have con - quered in the fight
There is the throne of Da - vid, and there, from care re - leased,



what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare:
for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white:
the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast.



to sing the hymn un - end - ing with all the mar - tyr throng,
in mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us to that dear land of rest
To God en - throned in glo - ry the Church's voic - es blend,



a - midst the halls of Zi - on re - sound - ing full with song.
where sings the host of heav - en your glo - rious name to bless.
the Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, the Light that knows no end.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text and tune: Public domain

Reading

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Paul explains that being a follower of Jesus means that our path in life will resemble his. Paul encourages us to not try and take detours as we journey toward heaven.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Public
confession is
faith's
response to
God's saving
Word.
Christians
composed the
Nicene 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.

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.



Reception of New Members

Friends in Christ,

After a review and instruction in the simple teachings of the Bible and our Lutheran church, you have requested to become members of this congregation. You have come to worship today to confess your unity with us and to take your place as a part of this faith community. I now ask you:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, answer: I do.
I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and this congregation, as you have come to know them, are faithful to the Word of God? If so, answer: I do.
I do.

Do you desire to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ, be diligent in the use of God's Word and sacraments, and lead a godly life as the Lord gives you strength? If so, answer: I do, and I ask God to help me.
I do, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your desire to join us in worship and mission and support this work with your prayers and gifts? If so, answer: It is, and I ask God to help me.
It is, and I ask God to help me.

With sincere joy, we welcome you as members of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Brothers and sisters,

As we welcome these new members to our Christian family, I encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep them in your minds, hold them in your

hearts, and pray for them again and again. Show them the face of friendship and offer them a hand of support. Encourage them with your “works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

The peace of Christ be with us all. Amen.

Gracious Father, we thank you for leading Kevin and Rory to desire to become members of our congregation and for giving them joy to confess their faith to us. Guide us with your wisdom as we worship and work together. Mold our minds and hearts in a single Christlike will so that we may be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord T Jesus Christ strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings. Go in Peace.

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.**

Please be seated.





The Sacrament

We believe what God's Word says. God's Word clearly teaches that along with the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26,28; Mk. 14:22,24; Lk. 22:19-22). God's Word also tells us that those who take Communion together are to:

- 1. Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are miraculously present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29),*
- 2. Examine their hearts (1 Cor. 11:28), and*
- 3. Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (1 Cor. 10:17).*

Therefore we ask that those who have not had the opportunity to understand our Scriptural confession would speak with the pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms as the pastor approaches. It is our sincere desire to share in the blessings of the Lord's Supper with you according to the pattern Jesus himself has given in his Word.

Introduction to the Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

These opening words mark the beginning of the Sacrament and are among the oldest words in the liturgy. Christians have been speaking these words to each other for thousands of years.

And Christ is Here

Sung to the tune of "In Christ Alone"

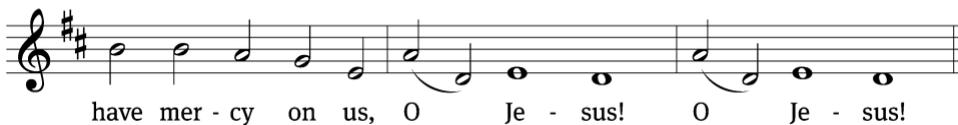
And Christ is here
In means divine
Found underneath the bread and wine!
In water poured There with the Word
The living voice of Christ is heard!
And when his Christians Fall to sin
Our Jesus calls us back again
For Christ is here
In means divine -
Blessing us through his design!

Words of Institution

The pastor speaks the words of institution according to 1 Corinthians 11. Afterward, the congregation will sing the song below.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy



John the Baptist declared Jesus to be God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

Distribution

After the song, please be seated. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

1 Cor. 11:26

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.**

Hymn

How Deep the Father's Love for Us



1 How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all
2 Be-hold the Man up-on a cross, my sin up-on his
3 I will not boast in an-y-thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea-sure, that he should give his on-ly Son to
shoul-ders. A-shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call
wis-dom. But I will boast in Je-sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea-sure. How great the pain of sear-ing loss.
out a-mong the scof-fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res-ur-rec-tion. Why should I gain from his re-ward?



The Fa-ther turns his face a-way as wounds which mar the
un-til it was ac-com-plished; his dy-ing breath has
I can-not give an an-swer. But this I know with



Cho-sen One bring man-y sons to glo-ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin-ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran-som.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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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.

Upcoming Events

There is a full schedule of events for both members and students alike. You can find the full schedule on the tables in the fellowship hall, on the app or website, or by scanning the QR code.

Wednesday Meals and Services during Lent

During Lent, there are services every Wednesday at Peace. There will be a meal for everyone who wishes to attend at 5:00. The service will begin at 6:00 and be over by 6:45.

Welcome New Members!

Kevin Stevens and Rory Gronevelt are joining Peace today. Kevin lives in Calumet and Rory lives in Laurium. When you have the chance, introduce yourself and welcome them to Peace!