



exactly
what i need

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, March 15, 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: Exactly What I Need

I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

Lent Worship Series Schedule: Exactly What I Need

Ash Wednesday (February 18): Forgiveness

February 22: A Champion

March 1: Faith

March 8: Water

March 15: Sight

March 22: Life



Today's Focus: *Sight*

I recognize that I am spiritually blind when I don't know Jesus. I cannot see the world as it really is. I am tempted to see what is harmful as good, and what is good as meaningless. I cannot see the danger that lurks behind every temptation. I realize that Jesus gave physical sight to the blind. But he also gives me spiritual vision. He said, "I am the light of the world." He comes to shine his light into my darkened eyes so that I see him and live.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Nate Crowder

Ensemble: Sack Sickman, Ella Erdmann, Emma Bohme, Nathaniel Groth, Liesel Fiebke

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE SERVICE

Hymn

379 *Amazing Grace*



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
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 and Absolution

When God's children rebel against him and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

**In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.**

2 Corinthians
5:21-6:2

Response

Today Your Mercy Calls Us st. 1



To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Merciful Father in heaven,
I am altogether sinful from birth.
In countless ways I have sinned against you
and do not deserve to be called your child.
But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:
Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.
Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Silence for reflection

Our Father assures all who approach his throne of grace that none will be turned away. He swore through his prophets of long ago:

"I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.

Jeremiah 31:34

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.

God's promise of forgiveness was fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. As our great high priest, he was tempted as we are, yet was without sin. In his death on the cross, he redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Since there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 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.

To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in
 shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.
 The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,
 a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For hearts set free from the condemnation of the law, for minds governed by the Spirit and not the flesh, and for lives devoted to what pleases God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that gain is loss apart from Christ and loss is gain in Christ and for perseverance to press on to take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,
what should we do with - out you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem a - gainst us, to drive us to de - spair,
we know one gate is o - pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

Having received the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, we now make our requests on the basis of his mercy.

Throughout the service, titles like "Kyrie refer to the Latin names for the ancient text of the church's liturgy.



The Word

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

God promises
to lead the
blind to safety
and turn their
darkness to
light.

¹⁴For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.

But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.

These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.

¹⁷But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the LORD?

²⁰You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen.”

²¹It pleased the LORD
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Once I have
seen the light
of Christ, I
strive to leave
deeds of
darkness
behind.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 12:2



Refrain



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

During Lent,
“alleluias” are
omitted.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Refrain

Gospel

John 9:1–7,13–17,34–39

Jesus enables a
man who had
been born blind
to see him both
physically and
spiritually.

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

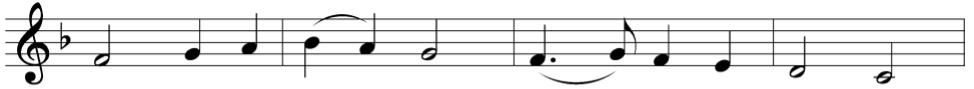
³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

343 Christ Is the World's Light



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;
2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;
3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;
4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
no one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the
Who else u - nites us, one with God the
He who re - deemed us reigns with God the
give God the glo - ry, God with us, our



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt.

Tune: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Text: © 1969 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

Tune: © 2004 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130547104

Sermon

Isaiah 42:14–21

Nicene Creed

Credo

**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.

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 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.



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

Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

1 Cor. 11:28

I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper.

1 Cor. 11:29

The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ.

1 Cor. 10:16

Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body.

Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1 Cor. 10:17

Hymn

In This Holy, Blest Communion



1 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion plain and
2 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion Christ and
3 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion saints are



pre - cious gifts com - bine: bread is tru - ly
sin - ners join as one— they, the Fa - ther's
gath - ered side by side, joined to - geth - er,



Je - sus' bod - y, blood of Je - sus joins with wine.
ran - somed chil - dren, he, the Fa - ther's right - ful Son.
broth - ers, sis - ters, in one bod - y u - ni - fied,



What a bless - ing Christ is giv - ing; what a
Here the loft - y feeds the low - ly, each his
faith in Je - sus, hope of heav - en, love for

lov - ing, gra - cious host, in his sup - per
high - ly cher - ished guest; here the guilt - y
oth - ers all in - creased by the full - ness

well pro - vid - ing what his peo - ple need the most!
taste for - give - ness, here the wea - ry find their rest.
of the ban - quet, by the rich - ness of the feast.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Welsh

Text: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

Tune: Public domain

Words of Institution

The pastor speaks the words of institution according to the words of 1 Corinthians 11.

Lamb of God

Angus Dei

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

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.

All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Distribution

Please be seated after the song. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction after the song.

Closing Prayer

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

Numbers 6:22-27

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of Right - eous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Tune: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

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 schedule on the table in the fellowship hall, on the app/website, or by scanning the QR code. Here are some upcoming events to keep in mind:



- **Pickleball Tournament at 1:00 pm in the Gates Tennis Center**

Midweek Lenten Services and Dinner

During the season of Lent, 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.

The Peace Easter project

We want as many people as possible to hear about the hope of the resurrection! Please grab a copy of the Peace Easter Project on your way out of church to learn more about our congregation-wide outreach plan.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate lilies in memory of a loved one in heaven, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Accompaniment	Snacks	Children's Ministry
March 15	Steve	Cody	Nate	Student Group	Gabriela	Grace
March 18 (Midweek)	Cody	Scott	Zack	NA		NA
March 29	Cesar	Craig	Nate	Student Group	Amy Hughes	help needed
April 2 (Holy Thursday)	Cody	Steve	Zack	NA	x	x
April 3 (Good Friday)	Steve	Cody	Zack	NA	x	x



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

47745 Mill Rd.
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: 906-482-1602

Pastor Welch's Cell: 906-231-6835

Pastor Welch's Email: pastor@peacehoughton.org

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.