



Judgement / Peace

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, November 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.

Current Worship Series: Cause and Effect

October 19: Generosity / Gratitude

October 26: Truth / Freedom

November 2: Sainthood / Stamina

November 9: Grace / Joy

November 16: Judgment / Peace

November 23: Christ the King Sunday

Service Participants:

Piano: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch

Series Theme: Cause and Effect

“Every why hath a wherefore.” That was Shakespeare’s poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect. We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus’ life and teaching.

The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that “every why hath a wherefore.” We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God’s kingdom.

Today’s Focus: *Judgment / Peace*

If you were making a list of things that might make society more peaceful, would you include “more judgment”? Likely not. Many people assume that judgement leads to conflict, not peace. However, a lack of judgment is a luxury many cannot afford. Our world is full of victims of abuse, violence, and oppression. In many cases this evil goes unnoticed and unpunished. A future without the hope of judgment means no peace. If there is no hope of judgment, victims would be driven either into total despair or to be consumed by the desire for revenge. A future that includes judgment, however, gives those who are wronged the peace of knowing that one day there will be perfect justice.

When we are horribly wronged, what are our options? Taking matters into our own hands? Despair? Jesus provides a better option. Trust that he will keep his promise to return, bringing judgment. The effect of that promise? We have peace, knowing that every wrong will eventually be righted by the one righteous Judge.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Hymn

355 *Let All Together Praise Our God*



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies
form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—
a great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
to help me in my need,
to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no
more;
to God our thanks we pay,
to God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; (sts. 1-3, 5-6): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, sts. 1-3, 5, 6, alt.; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, st. 4
Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561 Text (st. 4): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

Invocation

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

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Psalm 32:8

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.

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: ELLACOMBE



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it at God the Fa - ther's throne



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784

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Tune: Public domain

Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. In response to the repentance expressed through confession and absolution, the church sings as the angels sang on Christmas night: “glory be to God on high.”

Prayer of the Day

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word



First Reading

Malachi 4:1-6

¹“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ²But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

On the day of judgment, those who do evil will be laid low. But that day will mean rescue for those who revere the name of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Lesson

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10



Alleluia. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. 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.



Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

Jesus instructs us, when persecuted, to not seek vengeance. Instead, we are to stand firm and persevere, confident in the justice of coming judgment.

⁵Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶“As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

⁷“Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

⁸He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. ⁹When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

¹⁰Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹Stand firm, and you will win life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day (713 Small Blue Hymnal) *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

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The
Thessalonian
Christians were
suffering
persecution. To
empower their
perseverance,
Paul assures
them of the
coming
judgment and
punishment.

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.

Sermon Reading

2 Thessalonians 1:5–10

⁵All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

2 Thessalonians 1:5–10

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.**

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 pray 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

These opening words mark the beginning of the Sacrament and are among the oldest words in the liturgy.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

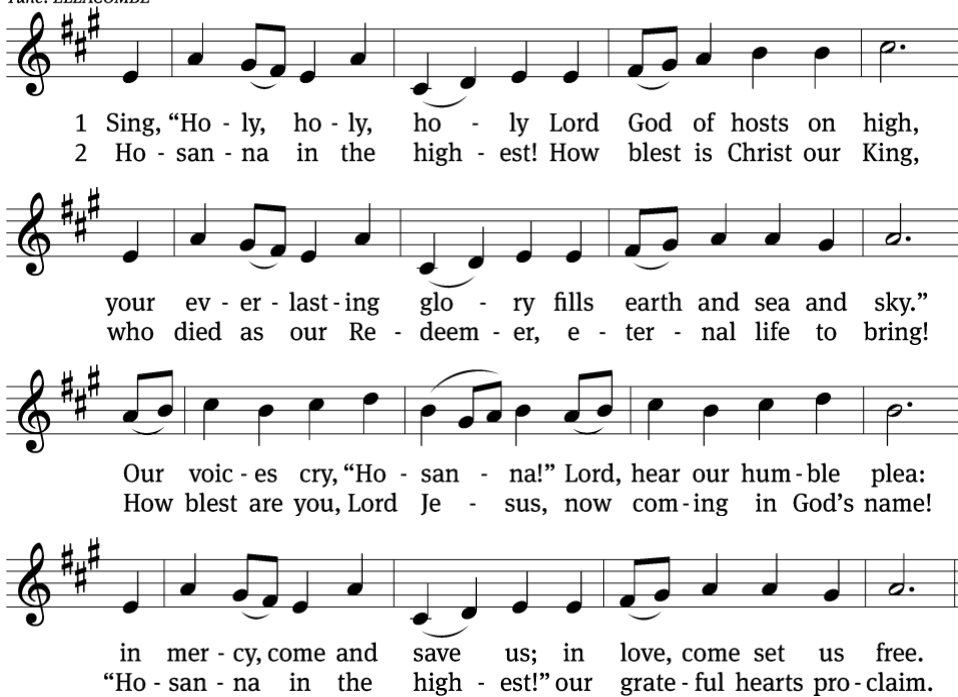
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Tune: ELLACOMBE



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!
in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

This canticle echoes the song that the seraphim (six-winged angels) sang before Isaiah. The angels sang the triple "holy," giving glory to our Triune God. This song has been used in celebration of the Lord's Supper since the second century.

Words of Institution

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

O Christ, Lamb of God

Tune: GOTTLÖB, ES GEHT NUNMEHR ZU ENDE

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

1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross sin, to has bleed paid and its price; in your per - fect love you will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742

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Tune: Public domain

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

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.

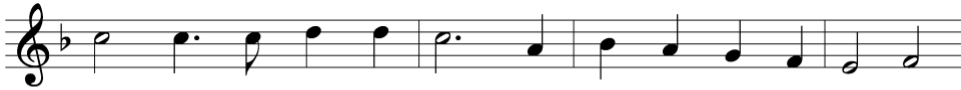
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Numbers 6:22

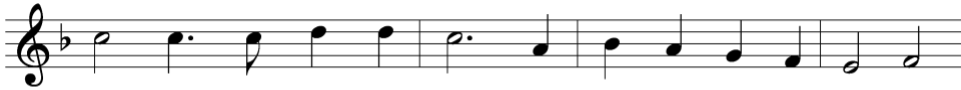
Amen.

Hymn

597 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
with ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,



who from our moth - ers' arms has blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace and guide us when per - plexed
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

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.

Sermon Discussion Guide

On the table by the entryway, you will find a stack of sermon discussion guides. These are intended for you and your family to take home as weekly devotional materials, allowing you to meditate on the sermon throughout the week. Take one with you as you exit today.

Upcoming Events

The semester events are found below. For some of these, signing up is required since space is limited. To sign up, find the event on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app, or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wednesday, Nov 19: | Thanksgiving dinner |
| Saturday, Dec 6: | Christmas canvassing and dinner |



Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
November 16	Steve	Craig	Nate	Zack	Mary Ann	Liesel
November 23	Cody	Steve	Help needed	x	Gabriela	Ivy
November 30	Dave Vlahos	Cody	Help needed	x	Kristie	Sarah
December 7	Steve	Scott	Nate	Zack	Karin	Liesel
December 14	Cesar	Craig	Mary Ann		Heather	Help needed

Thanksgiving Meal: Wednesday, November 19

Every Wednesday during the school year, students meet for a dinner and a Bible study. On Wednesday, November 19, Peace is hosting a Thanksgiving, potluck-style meal for students and members alike. Students and members can sign up to bring food for the meal. If you're interested in providing food, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway at church.

Christmas Canvassing: December 6th

On December 6th, we will advertise our Christmas Eve Candlelight service by hanging invitations on front doors around Houghton. Then we will warm up in the fellowship hall with a nice meal. If you can only make it to the canvassing or the meal, that is just fine. Come and go as you please.

- Canvassing: 2:00-4:15
- Meal: 4:30-5:30

New Parking Procedure

If you have been at Peace recently, you have likely noticed that the parking lot is reaching its capacity. To help with that, we cut down a few trees on the northeast side of the parking lot and filled in the area with fresh gravel. This will give us an additional 6-8 parking spots. Also, we will be starting a new parking procedure starting on Sunday, November 23rd. (See the diagram below.) There will be cones set up with a few people directing traffic to help everyone find a spot until we get used to this new parking layout.

