

God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home

Theme of the Day: One Stands; Everyone Else Sits

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, March 9, 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

When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home.

In the Church Year, we have come to the season of Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word for spring: "lengthen," when the days grow longer. For over 1400 years, the church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. In this 40-day journey to the cross and tomb, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

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*

Normally in a family everyone must do their part. . . pitch in. . . pull their weight. In God's family, he assigns and accepts the work of one on behalf of all. In God's house, God's Son—our brother, Jesus— stands alone on the field of battle against our enemies in our place. He fights vicariously. He fights victoriously.

This week we see one man, Jesus Christ, stand against Satan. We simply sit and watch with eyes full of wonder and repentant faith. Because Christ ought that battle as one of us, he won that battle for all of us. The door to heaven stands wide open for those who believe in him.

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.

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

Gathering Rite: Lord, Have Mercy

Please stand.

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;



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.



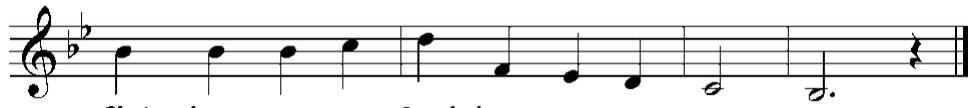
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy



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

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; 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

Hebrews 4:14–16

Jesus has stood in our place, facing every temptation that we have faced. Yet he did not sin.

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 3:8

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



Refrain



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

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

Refrain

During Lent, “alleluias” are omitted.

Reading

Luke 4:1-13

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷If you worship me, it will all be yours."

⁸Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

⁹The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰For it is written:

" 'He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

¹¹they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Weak and in the wilderness, Jesus stands against Satan's temptations. He overcomes them, winning the victory for us.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, oh Christ!

Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
he holds the field for - ev - er.
one lit - tle word can fell him.
the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Reading

1 Samuel 17:4–11,32–40,45–49

⁴A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. ⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; ⁶on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

⁸Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

³²David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

³³Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

³⁴But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

³⁸Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth

One warrior from each nation stood and fought while everyone else sat. David's victory over Goliath is as much a spiritual victory as a military one, for it teaches us that the battle is the Lord's.

stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

⁴⁵David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

⁴⁸As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

1 Samuel 17:4–11,32–40,45–49

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.

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.**

Please be seated.

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 T give you peace. **Amen.**

Numbers 6:22-27

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

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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

Starting this Wednesday, there will be midweek services at Peace. There will be a meal for everyone who wishes to attend at 5:15. The service will begin at 6:00 and be over by 6:45.

Why an extra service? Isn't one enough? Besides the fact that midweek services during the Lenten season have been a historical practice in the church for thousands of years, these evening services help to prepare our hearts and minds for the most impactful week in the history of the world, Holy Week. While it is an extra commitment, I promise you will not be disappointed when you make this a part of your Wednesday routine. God will bless this time in his word. See you Wednesday!