



# ***Trust Your Ears More than Your Eyes***

Peace Lutheran Church  
Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, May 19, 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: *Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer*

June 2: *Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned*

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*

## **Today's Focus: *Trust Your Ears More than Your Eyes***

Jesus told his disciples that, though he was going to ascend into heaven, he wasn't going to leave them alone. He was going to send "the Advocate," a title for the Holy Spirit. But Jesus wasn't sending the Spirit just to keep us company. Jesus would have the Advocate give us spiritual power so that we might participate in Christ's saving work.

Because of this promise, we never have to wonder how God works. By sending the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us a top-down direction. Do not judge the Spirit's work based on what you see; let your ears lead you as you listen to what the Spirit says through the word of God.

## **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: Andy Hastrieter

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

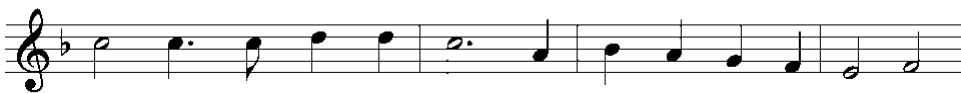
*Pentecost Sunday*

## Hymn

*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.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Rinkert, 1586–1649

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand*

## **Invocation**

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

## **Confession and Absolution**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

Therefore, it is by Christ's command and with his authority that I say to you what God says to you: In the name of Jesus T your sins are forgiven.

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!**

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

1 John 1:8

1 John 1:9

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.

1 John 3:1

# Glory to God

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."



1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,  
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



the might - y rock on which we build.  
all that we are has come from you.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,  
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled.  
now by your pow'r have been made new.



*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

Text: Bob Kaufflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

Tune: Bob Kaufflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

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## Prayer

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Please be seated.

## The Word



### First Reading

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

<sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup>This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup>I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’ ” <sup>10</sup>So I

The Lord allows Ezekiel to see that the Spirit would give that prophet’s words the power to raise the dead to life.

prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’<sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.’<sup>13</sup>Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup>I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’ ”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Acts 2:1–21*

The Day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of God’s promise to pour out his Spirit.

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup>Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup>(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” <sup>12</sup>Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”



<sup>13</sup>Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup>These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>“ In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup>The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Children's Lesson**

Please stand

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 Acclamation

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Speak, O Lord st. 1

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it  
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of  
love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
fill in us all your pur - pos-es for your glo - ry.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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## Gospel

John 15:26–27; 16:4b-11

<sup>26</sup>“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

<sup>27</sup>And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup>but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things.

<sup>7</sup>But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Jesus promised he would not leave us alone but would send us the Spirit of truth to give us the courage and power to testify to the world.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

*Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head*



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, you are her one foun -  
2 O Lord, let this your lit - tle flock, your name a - lone con -  
3 Help us to serve you ev - er - more with hearts both pure and  
4 And for your gos - pel let us dare to sac - ri - fice all



da - tion; in you she trusts, be - fore you bows, and waits for  
fess - ing, con - tin - ue in your lov - ing care, true u - ni -  
low - ly; and may your Word, that light di - vine, shine on in  
trea - sure; teach us to bear your bless - ed cross, to find in



your sal - va - tion. Built on this rock se - cure, your Church  
ty pos - sess - ing. Your sac - ra - ments, O Lord, and your  
splen - dor ho - ly that we re - pent - ance show, in faith  
you all plea - sure. O grant us stead - fast - ness in joy



shall en - dure though all the world de - cay and all things  
sav - ing Word to us e'er pure re - tain; grant that they  
ev - er grow; the pow'r of sin de - stroy and e - vils  
and dis - tress. Lord, for your mer - cy's sake, let us by



pass a - way. O hear, O hear us, Je - sus!  
may re - main our on - ly strength and com - fort.  
that an - noy. O make us faith - ful Chris - tians.  
grace par - take of end - less joy and glo - ry.

Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.; Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr.

Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

John 15:26–27; 16:4b-11

*Please stand*

### 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.

*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**

**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

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 in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.



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.

## 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

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

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, they laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned him as he died: the hum - ble King they named a  
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

*Refrain*

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the  
ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious  
blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958

Tune: Twila Paris, b. 1958

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## Distribution

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

Please stand

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 136:1*

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

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

*1 Cor. 11:26*

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

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

*Numbers 6:22-27*

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

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

# Hymn

O Church, Arise



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the  
2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to  
3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the  
4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that  
rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the  
Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -  
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.  
wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.  
neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!  
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -  
When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the  
And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -  
As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle  
out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for  
merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues  
tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.  
which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.  
till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.  
for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

# 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.



## New Sunday Bible Study – Growing in Grace and Knowledge

The goal of this study is twofold. First, “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” will hopefully help you grow in your understanding of Christian living by looking at a variety of topics pertaining to Christian life. The first topic is Christian Living itself. The Subsequent topics are **Prayer, Worship, Church, Stewardship, family, The World, and Evangelism.**

The second goal of “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” is to make you more comfortable with personal Bible study. Each topic contains five lessons, for a total of forty. Each lesson consists of a portion of Scripture that you will look up during the week leading up to Sunday. You will be answering questions, underlining Bible verses, and even making notes in your Bible. Hopefully, over the course of the forty lessons, you will become more comfortable with the process of studying Scripture.

As you consider coming to Sunday Bible study, here are my promises to you:

*Continued on the next page.*

- I will work extremely hard to make sure you feel comfortable.
- I will gently push you to grow in grace and knowledge by making Bible studies relevant, timely, and interesting.
- You are not expected to know anything at all.
- There truly is no such thing as a bad question, so I will never make fun of anything anyone says.
- I never call on anyone to read.
- I will never call on anyone to answer in front of the group unless they want to.
- My goal is for you to relax and be fed by God's word.
- I am going to have a blast!
- There will be coffee!

### **Acknowledgments**

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