



***He Lives to Take Me from Death to Life***

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, April 5, 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.

## **Current Worship Series: What Difference Does it Make?**

**Easter Day: *He lives to take me from death to life***

April 12: *He lives to give me proof and peace*

April 19: *He lives to restore my hope*

April 26: *He lives to be my Good Shepherd*

May 3: *He lives to be the only way to heaven*

May 10: *He lives to call me to live for him*

May 17: *He lives to rule all things for the Church*

May 24: *He lives to give me eager expectation of glory*

May 31: *He lives to pour out his Spirit*

## **Today's Focus: He Lives to Take Me from Death to Life**

Without the resurrection of Jesus, death would appear permanent. No one would have come back from the dead to explain what happens after death. Jesus told his disciples what would happen. But they were slow to believe the Easter truth. God ensured that his people had witnesses to assure that Jesus did not remain dead.

He lives, and it makes a difference! I too shall live. Death has become a pathway into paradise. Jesus has already made me spiritually alive by giving me faith in his resurrection. In every possible way, Jesus takes me from death to life.

### **BEFORE WORSHIP — PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and always rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be dominion and praise with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

### **Service Participants:**

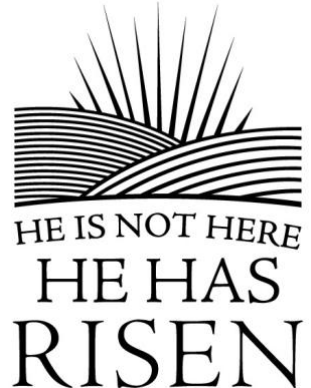
Computer Organ: Nate Crowder

Piano: Zack Sickmann

Flute: Emma Bohme

Clarinet: Ella Erdmann & Molly Maloney

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE



This is known as  
the Paschal  
Greeting.  
During the  
Easter Season,  
whenever the  
pastor says,  
“**Christ is  
risen!**” the  
people respond  
loudly, “**He is  
risen indeed!**”

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

## Invocation

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

Let us rejoice and give thanks to God for the victory our Lord Jesus Christ won by his death and resurrection. It is for us that he has triumphed.

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Romans 14:8*

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.  
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Romans 6:4*

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

*1 Corinthians  
15:54,55*

**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

# HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

1 Corinthians  
15:54,55

**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Upon the hill the cross now stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the tomb. As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.

**Lord God, I humbly come before you.**

**I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed.**

**I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid.**

**Lord, I am sorry for my sins.**

**I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ,  
you will have mercy on me.**

Upon this, your sincere confession, by Christ's command and authority, I say to you what God says, your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The vacant cross and empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life. The Lord is gracious and righteous!

**When I was in great need, he saved me.**

The Lord is my strength and my song.

**He has become my salvation.**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*After a brief introduction, the congregation joins to sing the song on the next page.*

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.

*Psalm 116:5*

4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Tune: Lyra Davidica, London, 1708  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

**Amen.**

Please be seated



# The Word

## First Reading

Jonah 2:2–9

Jesus  
compared  
himself to the  
Old  
Testament  
prophet who  
escaped  
certain death  
after three  
days in the  
belly of a fish.

<sup>2</sup>He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

<sup>3</sup>You hurled me into the depths,  
into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all your waves and breakers  
swept over me.

<sup>4</sup>I said, ‘I have been banished  
from your sight;  
yet I will look again  
toward your holy temple.’

<sup>5</sup>The engulfing waters threatened me,  
the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup>To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in forever.  
But you, LORD my God,  
brought my life up from the pit.

<sup>7</sup>“When my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered you, LORD,  
and my prayer rose to you,  
to your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup>“Those who cling to worthless idols  
turn away from God’s love for them.

<sup>9</sup>But I, with shouts of grateful praise,  
will sacrifice to you.  
What I have vowed I will make good.  
I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’ ”

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



# HYMN

## This Joyful Easter Tide



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide a - way with sin and  
2 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the  
3 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,  
riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill  
slum - ber till trump from east to west



has sprung to life this mor - row.  
my pass - ing soul de - liv - er.  
shall wake the dead in num - ber.

### *Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on,



our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934 Tune: Davids Psalmen, Amsterdam, 1684 Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Christ has  
indeed  
been  
raised from  
the dead.

<sup>1</sup>Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

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

## Children's Lesson

For centuries  
in preparation  
for hearing  
the Gospel,  
Christians  
have sung or  
spoken  
“Alleluia!” and  
a Scripture  
verse  
reinforcing  
the theme of  
the day.

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

After a brief introduction, the congregation joins in singing the refrains.

*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia,                      al - le - lu - ia,                      al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Alleluia.

Revelation 1:18

Refrain



## Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

<sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

<sup>4</sup>The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The account of Christ’s Easter victory.



The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

## Hymn of the Day

I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
Stanzas 1,3,5,7-8



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to  
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to  
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; he lives, and  
8 He lives, all glo - ry to his name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry  
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my  
I shall con - quer death; he lives my man - sion  
Je - sus, still the same. Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.  
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.  
to pre - pare; he lives to bring me safe - ly there.  
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1739–1799, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, 1710–1793 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Please stand

## Confession of Faith

Apostle's 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.**

*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!*

*Kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.*

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.

## 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.*

Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. For just as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**Christ is risen!**

He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Heavenly Father, we marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins. We bow down in adoration at your mighty power by which you raised him from the dead.

**We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.**

Lord Jesus, King of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

**You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.**

Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is no condemnation for us.

**Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.**

Holy Spirit, Lord of life, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

**We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the Light of life in Jesus Christ.**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **Thanksgiving and Blessing**

Hear us, O Father, for the sake of him who is the firstborn of the dead and is now alive forevermore, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. It is in his name that we bring this and every prayer to you, just as he taught:

**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.**

## **Blessing**

Now may the glorious Father, who by his power raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, give you the Spirit of wisdom to know the hope to which he has called you. And may he preserve you in body, soul, and spirit until your own resurrection on the day of Christ Jesus. Let all God's people say, "AMEN!"

**AMEN!**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

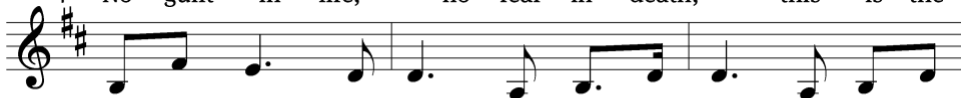


# Hymn

In Christ Alone



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my  
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of  
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the  
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



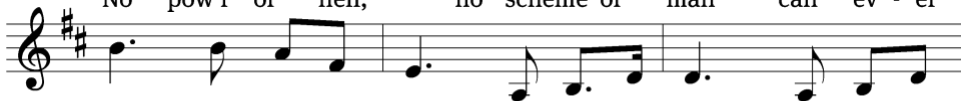
light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
 God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -  
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



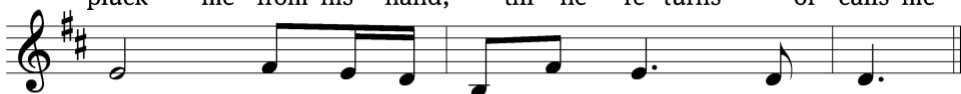
ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.  
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.  
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!  
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are  
 Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of  
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has  
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in  
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was  
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is  
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.  
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

# Announcements

## **Foundations of Faith Class**

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.

## **Sermon Discussion Guide on the Blue Table**

Each week, Peace produces a sermon discussion guide for individuals and families to take home. This can serve as a personal or family Bible study throughout the week. It's meant to help you meditate on the main themes of the sermon so that the Sunday message can be a blessing to you throughout the week. You can find these sermon discussion guides on the blue table in the entryway.

## **Easter Series: What Difference Does it Make?**

Easter isn't just a day; it's a season. Today is just the beginning of the resurrection comfort God has for you. Join us for "What Difference Does it Make?" our Easter series, which continues through the next six weeks. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross still matters. The tomb is still empty. Therefore, no matter what happens . . . even if everything else collapses, God's eternal promises are still standing.

## **"What Difference Does it Make?" Series Explanation**

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things . . . be killed and after

three days rise again” (Mark 8:31) So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin.

But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50-day celebration of that fact.

## Easter Egg Hunt After Worship

Shortly after worship, the kids can meet outside for an Easter egg hunt. Meet by the entryway to receive further instructions.

## Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Accompaniment	Snacks	Children's Ministry
April 5	Steve	Scott	Nate	NA	Easter Potluck	x
April 12	Cesar	Craig	Zack	NA	Karin	Grace
April 19	Steve	Steve	Nate	NA	Amy Spahn	Liesel
April 26	Cesar	Cody	Mary Ann	NA	Heather	Help Needed

## **Acknowledgments**

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# PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**[Peacehoughton.org](http://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.