



***He Lives to Give Me Proof and Peace***

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, April 12, 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*

## **Series Theme: What Difference Does It Make?**

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.

## **Today’s Focus: He Lives to Give Me Proof and Peace**

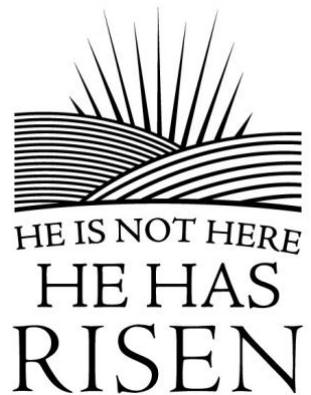
Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder whether anything he said was true. Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, Thomas still had doubts about the resurrection of Jesus.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. Today I have great comfort as someone with doubts about Christ’s promises in my life. Jesus engages me with continuing assurances in Word and sacrament. I have proof. I have peace.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch





# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

## Hymn

*Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed* sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 How can it be, the One who died has borne our  
 2 For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis -  
 3 Where doubt and dark - ness once had been, they saw him



sin through sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry  
 ci - ples lift their eyes. A - live he stands, their  
 and their hearts be - lieved. But blest are those who



sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 2  
 friend and King; Christ, Christ, he is ris - en!  
 have not seen, yet sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 4



Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -



lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:



"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." v. 3/v. 5

4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,  
they preached the truth and pow'r of grace  
and pouring out their lives they gained  
life, life everlasting. (Refrain)

5 The pow'r that raised him from the grave  
now works in us to pow'r'f'ly save.  
He frees our hearts to live his grace;  
go, tell of his goodness. (Refrain)

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Ed Cash, b. 1971

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Ed Cash, b. 1971

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## Invocation

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

Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**

## Confession

We are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.  
**Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.**

Let us confess that often we have lived for ourselves, confident in the forgiveness of him who lived, died, and rose for us.

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
for sins of habit and sins of choice,  
for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

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!”**

2 Corinthians  
5:14,15

## Absolution

1 Corinthians  
15:17-20

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.  
**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

After his resurrection, Christ commanded his church to proclaim his forgiveness, promising that their words were as certain as his. Therefore, by Christ's command and with his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**

1 Corinthians  
15:54,55

Death has been swallowed up in victory.  
Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?  
**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

After a brief introduction, the congregation sings:

**6 The life he lived is mine to claim  
No sins, no death, I rise through faith  
The guilt is gone, the shame removed  
Now, I live in freedom.**

**Refrain:**

**Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!**

**“Oh, sing hallelujah!”**

**Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:**

**“Christ is risen, he is risen indeed.”**



## Prayer

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Please be seated

## The Word

### First Reading

<sup>12</sup>The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

<sup>17</sup>Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup>They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. <sup>20</sup>"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

<sup>21</sup>At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. <sup>22</sup>But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, <sup>23</sup>"We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." <sup>24</sup>On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

<sup>25</sup>Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." <sup>26</sup>At that, the captain



Acts 5:12,17–32

The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so they could testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection.

went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

<sup>27</sup>The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup>“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

<sup>29</sup>Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup>We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

## Children's Lesson

### Second Reading

*1 Peter 1:3–9*

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have.

Please stand

## Gospel Acclamation

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

Refrain



Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.  
Alleluia.

John 20:29

Refrain



## Gospel

John 20:19–31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas.

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

165 O Sons and Daughters of the King sts. 1-7



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly  
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the faith - ful  
 3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee, for thus he  
 4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear; a - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!  
 wom - en went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.  
 spoke un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."  
 came their Lord most dear and said, "My peace be with you here."



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 When Thomas afterwards had heard  
that Jesus had fulfilled his word,  
he doubted that it was the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 “Thomas, behold my side,” said he,  
“my hands, my feet, my body see;  
and doubt not, but believe in me.”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
“You are my Lord and God,” he cried.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615;  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*John 20:19–31*

*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.**

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.

*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.*

## **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, your Son visited disciples hiding away for fear of the Jews, as well as John when he was exiled by the Romans to Patmos. Sustain all your disciples in the throes of persecution. Visit them with your Easter gospel, and give them their portion in the resurrection to life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord God of hosts, you have added believers to the Lord Jesus in all times and places, from those receptive and hostile alike. Shepherd the nations, and bring all peoples to embrace the gospel of the resurrected Christ. Curb wicked rulers and break their power, that all would be brought to the feet of Jesus in worship. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We implore you, O Lord, to sanctify and keep the congregations, schools, and organizations of our church body together with all our people in the truth. Preserve us from false teaching; bring us to repentance for every place where love or zeal has faltered; grant us and our children bold and steadfast hearts to remain faithful to our confession; and unite us with all Christians in a true confession of Jesus Christ, in whom the world has

redemption: the forgiveness of sins. To you alone be all glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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**

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

165 O Sons and Daughters of the King sts. 8-9



8 Bless - ed are they that have not seen and yet whose  
9 On this most ho - ly day of days to God your



faith has con - stant been; in life e - ter - nal they shall reign.  
hearts and voic - es raise in laud and ju - bi - lee and praise.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615;  
Text and tune: Public domain

# 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](mailto:pastor@peacehoughton.org)) or scan the QR code. 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.



## Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Accompianment	Snacks	Children's Ministry
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	NA
May 3	Steve	Scott	Mary Ann	NA	Sarah Robb	NA
May 10	Cody	Craig	Mary Ann	NA	Lesley/Janet	NA

## Backpacking Trip

Every summer, a group of students and members go backpacking the week before the fall semester. This summer, we will head to the Porcupine Mountains on August 26-28<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in this trip, you can find more information or register by searching for the event in the app/website or by scanning the QR code.



## Bowling after Worship Today

Students and members are invited to come to the mineshaft for bowling and pizza. We have lanes reserved for two hours starting at 12:30. See you there!



# PEACE

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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.