



# ***Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned***

Peace Lutheran Church  
Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, May 26, 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: *Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned***

June 2: *Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer*

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*

## **Series Explanation: A Top-Down Faith**

The phrase “from the top down” is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those “at the top” are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top town.

We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith. Christian teachings come “from the top down,” but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a “top-down faith,” we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn’t possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

## **Today’s Focus: *Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned***

After a long day of work, you have earned the right to sit down in your favorite chair, put your feet up, and watch your favorite program. After a hard week on the job, you have earned the opportunity to relax a bit that weekend. After doing your job well for many months, you have earned those two weeks of vacation at the beach. This is how everyone thinks: rest is something you earn through hard work. We even teach that to our kids: no gaming until homework is done, no playing with friends until chores are complete.

Since that concept of rest being earned is so deeply engrained in us, to properly understand spiritual rest requires a top-down faith. God needs to send us the Spirit so that we can grasp this truth. True spiritual rest cannot be earned. In fact, the harder you try, the more restless and the less peaceful you become. Spiritual rest is a gift that God gives. The rest we need most—from guilt, from worry, from shame, from hopelessness—is graciously given to us by the Lord of rest, the Lord of the Sabbath.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug  
Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

*First Sunday after Pentecost*

## Hymn

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light.



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
Look un - to me; your morn shall rise and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.

Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.

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

Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is our true Sabbath rest. Help us to keep each day holy by receiving his Word of comfort that we may find our rest in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Please be seated.

## The Word

### First Reading

*Deuteronomy 5:12–15*

<sup>12</sup>“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>14</sup>but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. <sup>15</sup>Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

*Colossians 2:13–17*

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup>having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.



The LORD commanded that the Sabbath day be observed so that we might rest and remember all that he has done for us.

All God's commands about religious festivals and the Sabbath day were meant to point us to the spiritual rest found in Christ.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

<sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

## Children's Lesson

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Psalm 19:8*

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

Alleluia. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.  
Alleluia.



3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights  
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the  
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.  
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll  
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your  
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.



## Gospel

Mark 2:23—3:6

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

<sup>25</sup>He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? <sup>26</sup>In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

<sup>1</sup>Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. <sup>2</sup>Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup>Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.

<sup>5</sup>He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>6</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

# Hymn of the Day

*My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone*



1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion;  
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp-ta - tions;  
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com-plete - ly;



a for-tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be  
when e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal -  
with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his



shak - en. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and  
va - tion. Though rich - es come and rich - es go, don't  
mer - cy. Though life is but a fleet - ing breath, a



lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on  
set your heart up - on them; the fields of hope in  
sigh too brief to mea - sure, my king has crushed the



right - eous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.  
which I sow are har - vest - ed in heav - en.  
curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

## *Refrain*



O praise him, hal-le - lu - jah, my de-light and my re - ward;



ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

## Sermon

John 15:26–27; 16:4b-11

*Please stand*

## 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.

*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.**

### **Blessing**

*Numbers 6:22-27*  
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.**

*Please be seated*

# Hymn

## Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for the gos - pel's  
3 So when - e'er the sig - nal's giv - en us from earth to



joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
call a - way, borne on an - gels' wings to heav - en,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound! Ev - er faith - ful,  
glad the sum - mons to o - bey, may we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er reign with Christ in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Text and tune: Public domain

# 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.

## Last Call to Attend Women's Ministry Conference

In an effort to lead the women of our congregation to grow in their faith and knowledge, Peace is sponsoring any woman affiliated with Peace to attend the WELS Women's Ministry Conference. The conference is from July 28th – 30th in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. The deadline to sign up is May 30. If you are planning to attend, please contact Pastor Welch so that he can sign you up.

## 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:

- 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!

## **Brat Fry and Friendship Sunday – June 22 and 23**

We have good news that we want to share! Strategies to share that message have changed drastically in the last 15-20 years. Simply put, people do not trust large institutions or churches the way that they used to. That means the old church outreach model will no longer be very effective. So, what's the best way to share the good news with more people? You! While people do not trust the church like they used to, they do trust you, their Christian friend. Inviting people to church can be scary. Friendship Sunday is designed to make it a little less scary for you and for your friend or family member who comes to Peace for the first time. Consider inviting your friends or family members to Friendship Sunday so we can share the good news with them too!

## **Friendship Sunday Potluck**

We want our new friends at Peace to feel welcomed and enjoy their time here. What better way to extend the hand of friendship than by sharing a meal together? If you are able to bring an item, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

### **Acknowledgments**

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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.*

