



## *Count the Cost*

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, September 21, 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.

## **Current Worship Series: Wounds that Heal**

August 24: God's Word Divides

August 31: The Door Is Very Narrow

September 7: The Found are Left; the Lost are Found

September 14: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

**September 21: Count the Cost**

September 28: No One Can Serve Two Masters

October 5: What Helps In Life Fails in Death

October 12: Increased Faith Increases Duty

## **Series Theme: *Wounds that Heal***

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

## **Today’s Focus: *Count the Cost***

This week Jesus’ sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain at all costs. Jesus explains that following him will be hard. Jesus’ disciples will be called to let go of things they love and embrace things we naturally loathe. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses—a unique type of pain. So, Jesus tells us that we must count the cost of following him. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations must not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we just make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann  
Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

*Sunday, September 14, 2025*

## Hymn

*Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening*



1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant  
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten  
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my  
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or  
to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,  
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;  
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life  
let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,  
on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my  
that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your



through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er  
Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who  
light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my  
praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est



be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.  
feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.  
sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.  
praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

*Please stand*

## **Invocation**

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

## **Confession**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## **Absolution**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Psalm 32:1-2

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.

# Glory to God in the Highest

Glory Be to God the Father sts. 1, 3

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 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to  
3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, glo - ry to the  
God the Son, glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:  
Church's King, glo - ry to the King of na - tions;  
great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,  
heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,  
glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run!  
glo - ry to the King of glo - ry sing!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889  
Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865–1919  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# The Word



## First Reading

*Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.  
<sup>16</sup>For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.  
<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.  
<sup>19</sup>This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the LORD wants his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death.

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

## Children’s Message

## Second Reading

Philemon 1,7–21

The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner, Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost in following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

<sup>7</sup>Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, <sup>9</sup>yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup>that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

<sup>12</sup>I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup>I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—<sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

<sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. <sup>20</sup>I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn of the Day

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–4



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's  
2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the  
3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in  
4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -  
con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er  
your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall  
flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2  
flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain  
see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain  
ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain



So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960

Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960

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## Gospel

Luke 14:25–35

<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup>For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup>“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? <sup>35</sup>It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Sermon

Luke 15:1-10

## 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 speaks the Prayer of the Church and the congregation will join together to pray 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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

## 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 (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,  
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.  
All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:  
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

## Distribution

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

## Thanksgiving

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

*Psalm 136:1*

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

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

*Numbers 6:22*

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

**Amen.**

# Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.  
glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.  
Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

# 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

The semester events are found below. For some of these, signing up is required since space is limited. To sign up, find the event on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app, or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

Sunday, Sept 21:	Canoe trip after church – <b>sign up required</b>	
Wednesday, Oct 1:	Fire and s'mores after Bible study	
Sunday, Oct 12:	Hike after church	
Saturday, Nov 1:	Pickleball tournament – <b>sign up required</b>	
Saturday, Nov 8:	Laser tag – <b>sign up required</b>	
Wednesday, Nov 19:	Thanksgiving dinner	
Saturday, Dec 6:	Christmas canvassing and dinner	



## **Canoe Trip After Worship**

The group of students and members going on the canoe trip will leave at 12:00. Afterward, we will return to church and have an early dinner.

## **Wednesday Dinner Help**

Every Wednesday, the students meet for dinner and a Bible study. Please consider helping to provide a meal. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway on the blue table. It is not expected that you would pay for the meal, unless you want to. If you do purchase items for a meal, submit a receipt to Pastor Welch, and Peace will reimburse you. Reach out to Pastor Welch with any questions you may have. Thank you!

