



# PEACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, August 23, 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.

## **Today's Focus: *Who is the Lord?***

Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am? It's the most important question in the world, and it is a question every human being must answer. The expected answer may be dead wrong. Some in Jesus' day thought he was John the Baptist. Some thought he was the prophet Elijah who had come back from the dead. Today, plenty of people believe that Jesus existed. They think that Jesus was a wise teacher or a role model for love. Both answers are expected. Both miss the main point. Jesus is a real human being, the Son of Man. He is also Lord and Savior, the Son of the living God. This unexpected truth is the core of saving faith.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Guest Preacher: Phil Paustian

Pastor Phil Paustian graduated from WLS in 1987 and served ten years in a tri-parish in eastern Montana (Terry, Circle, and Wolf Point), before taking the call to the dual parish of St. Paul's in Gladstone (which closed in 2005), and St. Martin's in Rapid River, until he retired five years ago. He now lives in Gladstone, and does what I can to help out at Salem in Escanaba.



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

## Hymn

*The Church's One Foundation sts. 1-5*



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;  
3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord, to de - fend,  
4 Tho' with a scorn - ful won - der the world sees her op - pressed,  
5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end.  
by schisms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
Tho' there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
a - gainst both foe and trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900, abr., alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

## Invocation

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

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

## Confession and Absolution

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

Psalms 32:1-2

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.**

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.

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Absolution

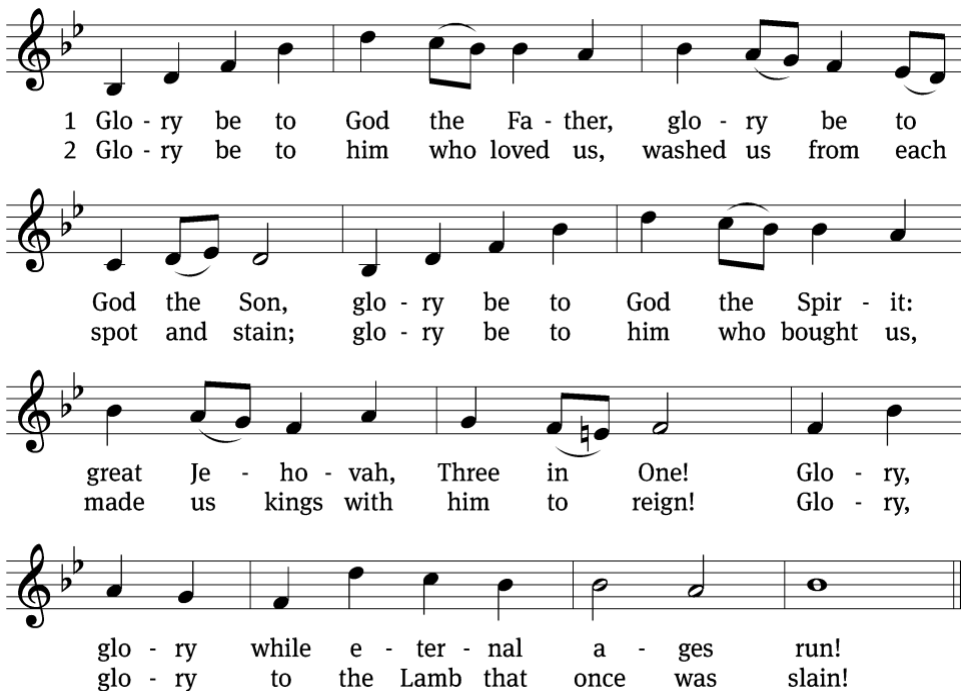
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father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

You are at peace with God now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# Glory Be to God the Father

Gloria

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  
2 Glo - ry be to him who loved us, washed us from each  
God the Son, glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:  
spot and stain; glo - ry be to him who bought us,  
great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,  
made us kings with him to reign! Glo - ry,  
glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run!  
glo - ry to the Lamb that once was slain!

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

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

# The Word

## First Reading

Exodus 34:1–10

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. <sup>2</sup>Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. <sup>3</sup>No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.”

<sup>4</sup>So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. <sup>5</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

<sup>8</sup>Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. <sup>9</sup>“Lord,” he said, “if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.”

<sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said: “I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you.

God  
proclaimed to  
Moses what  
he is like. The  
Church’s job is  
to proclaim to  
the world who  
Christ is and  
what he is like.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Romans 10:5–13

Those who  
believe that  
Jesus is both  
Lord and  
Savior will be  
saved.

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>“or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup>If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup>As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup>for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

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

## Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68

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

*After an introduction, the congregation will join to sing the verse.*



Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia.





## Gospel

*Matthew 16:13–20*

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

<sup>14</sup>They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup>“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The truth upon which God builds his Church is Jesus, the Son of the living God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Hymn of the Day

*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.

*Please stand*

## Apostle's Creed

Credo

**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!*

*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 to say the Lord's prayer.*

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.



## **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**

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

*There Is a Redeemer*

*The congregation will sing the final refrain a second time.*



- 1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
- 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
- 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope\_ for sin - ners slain.  
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in\_ that ho - ly place.

## *Refrain*



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946

Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music/Ears To Hear Music/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., admin.

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# 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 | Livestream/Music | Snacks         |
|--------------|-------|---------|------------------|----------------|
| August 23    | Steve | Steve   | Mary Ann         | Heather        |
| August 30    | Cody  | Cody    | Mary Ann         | Sarah          |
| September 6  | Steve | Scott   | Judy             | Mary Ann       |
| September 13 | Steve | Steve   | Nate             | Amy Hughes     |
| September 20 | Cody  | Cody    | Judy             | Kristie Vlahos |

## Building Project Update

The contract with Excel Engineering has been signed, and the building committee will meet with them soon. We will then work to create a program that details the project's needs and specifications. After that will come a master plan, cost estimates, and then drawings. Keep our church and this process in your prayers, and ask God to bless this work!

## **Wednesday Meals**

The students will be returning soon and it's time to get ready! One of the staples of our campus ministry is the Wednesday dinners and Bible studies. These dinners are sometimes prepared by members and other times by students. Please consider providing a meal this semester. You can prepare it in advance and leave it for the students to serve on their own, or you can stay and serve the meal if you would like. Either is just fine. If you decide to help out, please reach out to our administrative assistant, Judy Limpert.



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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.