

# resurrection **REALity**

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***Jesus' Business is Love; Therefore,  
So Is Ours***

Peace Lutheran Church  
Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, April 28, 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: Easter Reality**

Easter Sunday: *Easter is of First Importance*

April 7: *The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace*

April 14: *We Have a Meaningful Message to Share*

April 21: *The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding*

**April 28: *Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours***

May 5: *The Living Lord Produces Active Faith*

May 12: *Christ's Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever*

May 19: *We Will Overcome This Broken World*

## **Today's Focus: *Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours***

The entirety of God's Word can be summed up in one word: love. God's Law is all about love. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..." and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37,39). The gospel is all about love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." (John 3:16). From his compassion for the sick and broken, to his sacrificial death on the cross, to the peace he provided after his resurrection, Jesus was the perfect embodiment of love. Love is his business.

Therefore, love is our business too. The resurrection reality is that with the same supernatural power by which God raised Jesus from the dead, God now enables us to live a new life—one marked by radically selfless love. The motivation and ability to do this comes from seeing the endless love Christ has for us. We love only because he first loved us.

### **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Mary Ann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch

Each Sunday, the *Today's Focus* is based on the three readings in the middle of the service. We do not base our worship themes on clever ideas or interesting topics but on the word of God found in the readings that Christians have been using in worship for thousands of years.

It may be helpful for the worshipper to read the three readings prior to the service. As you do, notice how all three readings are tied together under the common theme that serves as *Today's Focus*.





# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

## *The Fifth Sunday After Easter*

### Hymn

*Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed* sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-4



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  
4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the



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  
truth and pow'r of grace and pour - ing out their



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  
lives they gained life, life ev - er - last ing.



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

*Please stand*

## **Invocation**

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

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

You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus!  
**For all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ.**

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for,  
**and certain of what we do not see.**

This is the day the Lord has made!  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## **Confession and Absolution**

As we come into the presence of God, we confess all our sins, including the many times we have often been unsure about God's promises.  
**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.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

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

Galatians 3:27

Hebrews 11:1

Psalms 118:24

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.

Romans 10:10 It is with your heart that you believe and are justified;  
**And it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

1 Peter 1:18-21 You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Acts 10:43 **Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**

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.

John 20:29 Your Savior also says, "Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed."

John 20:31 **"I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; by believing I have life in his name."**

## Hymn

*Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed* sts. 5, Ref

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 good - ness.

to Verses | to Refrain

*Refrain*

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:

*(Fine)*

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

Text: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974  
 Tune: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974  
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## Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; 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 Prayer of the Day often summarizes the key themes that will be found in the readings on the following pages.





# The Word

## First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>When Peter went up to Jerusalem, those who insisted on circumcision criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, “You went to visit men who were uncircumcised and ate with them!”

<sup>4</sup>So Peter began to explain everything to them, point by point. He said, <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision in which an object like a large sheet was let down from heaven by its four corners. It came right to me. <sup>6</sup>When I inspected it very carefully, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!’

<sup>8</sup>“But I replied, ‘Certainly not, Lord, for nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

<sup>9</sup>“A voice spoke from heaven a second time: ‘What God has made clean, you must not continue to call unclean.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and then everything was pulled up into heaven again.

<sup>11</sup>“At that very moment, three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them without any hesitation. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he saw an angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and call for Simon, the one called Peter. <sup>14</sup>He will speak words to you by which you and all your household will be saved.’

<sup>15</sup>“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came down on them, just as he came down on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>Then I remembered how the Lord had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to try to stand in God’s way?”

<sup>18</sup>When they heard these things, they had no further objections, and they praised God, saying, “So then, God has granted repentance that results in life also to the Gentiles!”

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

The love that  
we share is for  
all people of  
all nations.



## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:5-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away everything I own, and if I give up my body that I may be burned but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. It does not brag. It is not arrogant. <sup>5</sup>It does not behave indecently. It is not selfish. It is not irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophetic gifts, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be done away with. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, <sup>10</sup>but when that which is complete has come, that which is partial will be done away with. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup>Now we see indirectly using a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I was fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

All the spiritual gifts in the world mean nothing if one does not have love.

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

## Children's Lesson

*Please stand*

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

## Gospel Acclamation

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

*Refrain*



1 Corinthians  
13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

*Refrain*



Truly glory comes when from the selfless love of Jesus.

## Gospel

*John 13:31-35*

<sup>31</sup>After Judas left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself and will glorify him at once.”

<sup>33</sup>“Dear children, I am going to be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

<sup>34</sup>“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

# Hymn

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice sts. 1-5



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, with ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; death brood-ed dark - ly  
3 My own good works a - vailed me naught, no mer - it they at -  
4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun -  
5 He spoke to his be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -



spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my  
tain - ing; my will a - gainst God's judg-ment fought, no hope for  
da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for  
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of my crown, and bring to



rap - ture sing - ing, pro-claim the won - ders God has done, how  
moth - er bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still I fell; life  
me re - main - ing. My fears in-creased till sheer de - spair left  
my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought  
all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; slay



his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!  
had be - come a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
on - ly death to be my share and hell to be my sen - tence.  
my re - demp-tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.  
bit - ter death for them that they may live with you for - ev - er."

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800-1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

John 13:31-35

*Please stand*

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.

## 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.**

*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.*

### **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 T

give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

# Hymn

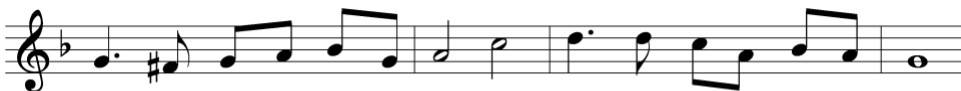
*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–1886, alt.  
Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918  
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, but if you would like to attend with a group, the next session will begin on April 16.

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

- May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 workday and cookout.

## Acknowledgments

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## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

47745 Mill Rd.  
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: 906-482-1602

Pastor Welch Cell: 906-231-6835

**[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.*

resurrection  
**REALity**