



On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, July 27, 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: Undivided Attention

June 15: (Holy Trinity) On the Majesty and Mystery of Our God

June 22: On the Mission Right Before Us

June 29: On the Rock-Solid Foundation

July 6: On Christ's Call for Commitment

July 13: On a Neighbor In Need

July 20: On the One Thing Needed

July 27: On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer

August 3: On Useful Resources

August 10: On Heavenly Treasure

Series Theme: *Undivided Attention*

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being “free from distraction.” But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be freed from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give his followers power and focus. Still today, through his Word, Jesus grants those gifts to his disciples.

We have come to the second half of the Church Year. In the first half, we focused on the life of Christ. In this second half, we turn our attention to all the teachings of Christ. May we give them our undivided attention.

Today's Focus: *On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer*

In a sense, prayer comes naturally to us. We want so we ask. We hurt so we cry out. We are frustrated so we vent. We are blessed so we give thanks. Natural! What does not come naturally, however, is a proper understanding of the privilege of prayer. Prayer is a privilege, based entirely on the unique and unearned relationship we have with God, our Father. And the purpose of prayer is really not to tell God what we want, but to claim that which God wants for us. Prayer provides the opportunity to bring our will into conformity with God's will, not the other way around. This week, we give our undivided attention to what God says about this access we call prayer. Along with Jesus' disciples we say, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Guest Pastor: Kieth Kuschel



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Hymn

Reformation Song sts. 1-2, Ref, 3



1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,
2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you;
3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;



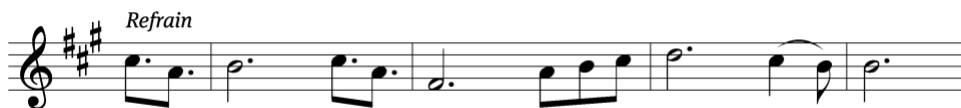
the might - y rock on which we build.
we have no mer - it we can claim.
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,
Sure that your prom - is - es are true,
Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled. v. 2
we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
his per - fect work has set us free.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

Please stand

Invocation

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

Confession

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.**

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

1 John 1:9

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

Absolution

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.

By Jesus' command and 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. **Amen.**

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.

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.”

Glory to God

Reformation Song sts. Ref, 4

4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved
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: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

Text and tune: © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise, admin. IntegratedRights.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

Prayer of the Day

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; 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

Genesis 18:20–32



²⁰Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

²²The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

²⁶The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, ²⁸what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?”

“If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.”

²⁹Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?”

He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.”

³⁰Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

³¹Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?”

He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.”

³²Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?”

He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

Abraham prays on the basis of what he knows about the LORD: that the LORD is a just judge, that the LORD shows mercy, and that the LORD invites us to be bold in our prayers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1–7

Paul teaches us that the ultimate purpose for everything we ask is that God's will would be done.

¹I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

1 John 4:14

Alleluia. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Alleluia.

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



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.



Gospel

Luke 11:1–13

¹One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus teaches us how to pray and how our Father will answer.

²He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“ ‘Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.’ ”

⁵Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

Hymn of the Day

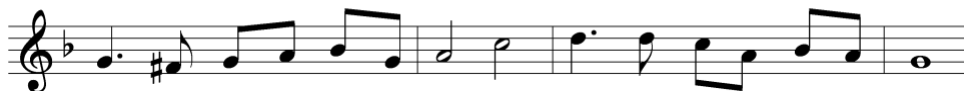
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



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.

A CHILD OF GOD PRAYS

1. With Boldness
2. With Concern
3. With Persistence

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.

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 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.**

Blessing

Ephesians 3:20-21

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!

Numbers 6:22

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.

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.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734944

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.

Building Project Open Forum – August 10th

As you may know, our church council assembled a building committee in May to explore the possibility of a building project at Peace. The building committee began meeting three months ago and would like to provide the congregation with an update on their progress.

Therefore, on August 10th next week, there will be a shortened service to give the building committee time to present and gather feedback from the congregation in an open forum. **This is a congregational matter**, and we value your input throughout this process. This open forum is a crucial first step toward reaching a consensus on the path forward at Peace.

The open forum will begin at **11:00 a.m.** with a brief presentation on what the building committee has accomplished in its first three meetings, as well as its suggestions for moving forward. We hope you can attend to provide your input!

Guest Pastor

Thank you, Pastor Kieth Kuschel, for sharing God's word with us today! To Learn more about Pastor Kuschel, see his Biography below:

Kieth Kuschel was born in Marinette, WI, but his parents lived in the UP. He grew up in N Fond du Lac, WI, went to St Paul's grade school, Northwestern Prep,

Northwestern College, and WI Lutheran Seminary. Played high school basketball; high school, college, & and semipro baseball; and trumpet in high school, college, and other bands.

Has served as a pastor in exploratory missions in Fairbanks, AK(3 months), and Indian River, MI(3 months); in an emergency situation in New Orleans, LA(6 wks); as first resident pastor in Green Bay, WI, (5 yrs) and Trumbull, CT, (20 yrs), and as pastor of an established cong in Mukwonago, WI, with 6 LES staff members (15 yrs). Has served as circuit pastor for 25 yrs; Dist Bd of Stewardship/ Adult Discipleship and WELS Bd of Adult Discipleship (20 years- Chrm 12 years). Had big gardens until the big congo in WI didn't allow the time required.

Retired Jul y 1, 2014. Since then has served vacancies in Radcliff, KY, Johnson City, TN, Lusby, MD, N Ft Myers, FL , Des Moines, WA, Yorktown, VA, Duluth, MN, Hot Springs Village, AR, Williston, ND, Killeen, TX, Nicollet, MN, Flagstaff, AZ , Manistee, MI, Clovis, CA, Antigo WI, Lancaster CA, Lakeside AZ, Lancaster , WI, W Lafayette IN, Kingman AZ, Casper, WY , Albuquerque, NM and Ellizabth/Freeport IL. . During summers has filled in for vacationing pastors in WY, MT, NY, NH, MA, and IL.

Married Karen while pastor in CT. Have two sons. Kristoffer (Staff Minister @ St Paul's, New Ulm, MN) & and wife Ashley (Kdgt n teacher - now stay at home mom) Five children: Weston 6 yrs; and Abigail 5 yrs, Patrick 3 yrs, and Dylan and Evelyn 1 yrs Karl (Math teacher @ Westside Christian Academy, Middleton, WI)& wife Sarah (teacher - now stay at home mom). Two children: Marie 4 years, Reggie 2 yrs, and Laura 4 mo

Karen Muller Kuschel was born in Flushing, NY, grew up in Whitestone, NY(both cities inside of New York City), went to Immanuel Lutheran Grade School, Flushing High School, Queens College of the City University of NY, and Albany Medical College. Did her residency in Cooperstown, NY, and practiced as an Ob-Gyn physician in Bridgeport, CT. Retired when Kristoffer was born.

Participated in the handbell choirs at our churches in CT and WI. Was a craft leader for VBS grades 2. Worked as one of the volunteer school librarians at our last church.

Does counted cross-stitch & other sewing based craft and artistic ventures. Is the cruise director as we see the various parts of the US while serving vacancies.



47745 Mill Rd.
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: 906-482-1602

Pastor Welch's Cell: 906-231-6835

Pastor Welch's Email: pastor@peacehoughton.org

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.