



# What Helps in Life Fails in Death

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, October 5, 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: *What Helps in Life Fails in Death***

What do John D Rockefeller, King Solomon, Henry Ford, and Joseph Stalin all have in common? Two things. First, they are all in the list of the twenty wealthiest individuals who ever lived. Second, they are all rotting in the ground. The reality is that while money may help you achieve some objectives, it fails to prevent death. So Jesus speaks some sharp words this week, warning that those who live with hearts filled with love for money and void of love for God will receive the only eternity that money can buy— one void of God and filled with torment. Money seems helpful, but it fails in death. Conversely, what often seems of little help in this life will be our only source of help in death. The world scoffs at those who set aside plentiful time to listen to Jesus’ words and eat his holy meal. “Of what practical good are such things?” Only this. Such things enable us, at death, to receive a reward that dwarfs even the best things money can buy.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann and Nate Crowder.

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

*Sunday, October 5, 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.**

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

Psalm 32:1-2

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## **Absolution**

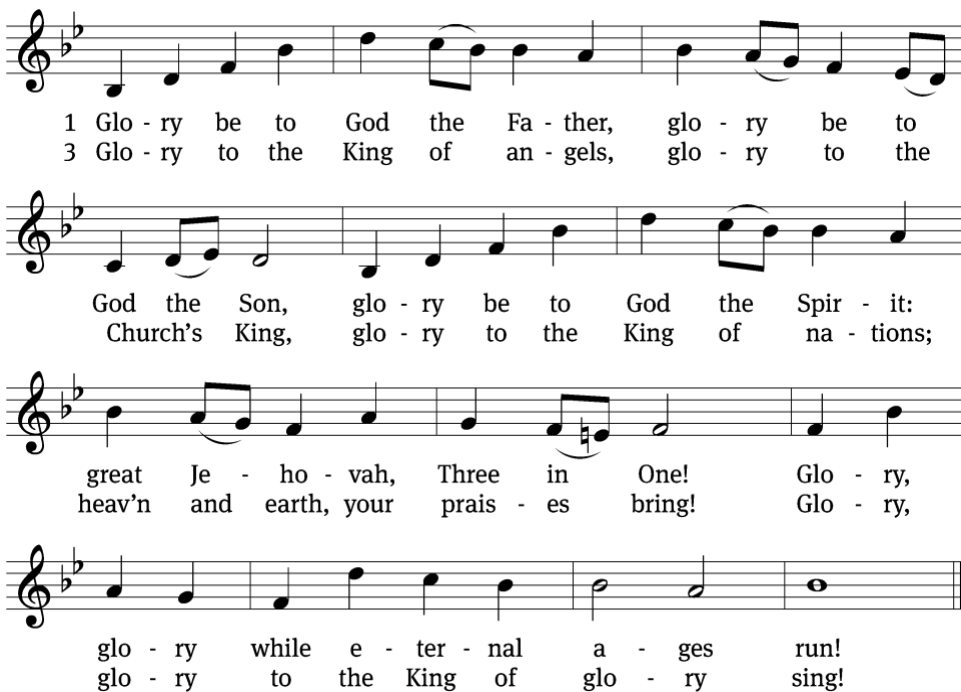
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father,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

The 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

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# The Word



## First Reading

Amos 6:1–7

<sup>1</sup>Woe to you who are complacent in Zion,  
and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria,  
you notable men of the foremost nation,  
to whom the people of Israel come!  
<sup>2</sup>Go to Kalneh and look at it;  
go from there to great Hamath,  
and then go down to Gath in Philistia.  
Are they better off than your two kingdoms?  
Is their land larger than yours?  
<sup>3</sup>You put off the day of disaster  
and bring near a reign of terror.  
<sup>4</sup>You lie on beds adorned with ivory  
and lounge on your couches.  
You dine on choice lambs  
and fattened calves.  
<sup>5</sup>You strum away on your harps like David  
and improvise on musical instruments.  
<sup>6</sup>You drink wine by the bowlful  
and use the finest lotions,  
but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.  
<sup>7</sup>Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile;  
your feasting and lounging will end.

At the time of Amos, the Israelites enjoyed prosperity, but spiritually they were drifting from the LORD. The prophet warns not to let prosperity provide a false sense of security.

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

## Hymn

Glory Be to God the Father st. 3

3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, glo - ry to the  
Church's King, glo - ry to the King of na - tions;  
heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,  
glo - ry to the King of glo - ry sing!

## Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1–6

All Christian  
virtue—  
including a  
proper  
attitude  
toward  
wealth—  
comes from  
knowing  
the Lord is our  
help.

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

<sup>4</sup>Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

<sup>6</sup>So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# Hymn of the Day

My Worth Is Not in What I Own sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 My worth is not in what I own, not  
2 My worth is not in skill or name, in  
3 As sum - mer flow'rs we fade and die; fame,



in the strength of flesh and bone, but in the  
win or lose, in pride or shame, but in the  
youth, and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e -



cost - ly wounds of love at the cross. v. 2  
blood of Christ that flowed at the cross. Refrain  
ter - nal calls to us at the cross. v. 4

*Refrain*



I re-joice in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,



well-spring of my soul. I will trust in him, no oth - er; my



soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.

4 I will not boast in wealth or might,  
or human wisdom's fleeting light.  
But I will boast in knowing Christ  
at the cross. (Refrain)

5 Two wonders here that I confess:  
my worth and my unworthiness.  
My value fixed—my ransom paid  
at the cross. (Refrain)

## Gospel

Luke 16:19–31

Jesus tells a parable about two men, one whose confidence was in his wealth, another whose confidence was in his God.

<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup>At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup>and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup>“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

<sup>25</sup>“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

<sup>27</sup>“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

<sup>29</sup>“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

<sup>30</sup>“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

<sup>31</sup>“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

## Sermon

Luke 16:19–31

## Confession of Faith

### Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Public  
confession is  
faith's response  
to God's saving  
Word.  
Christians  
composed the  
Nicene 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 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.**

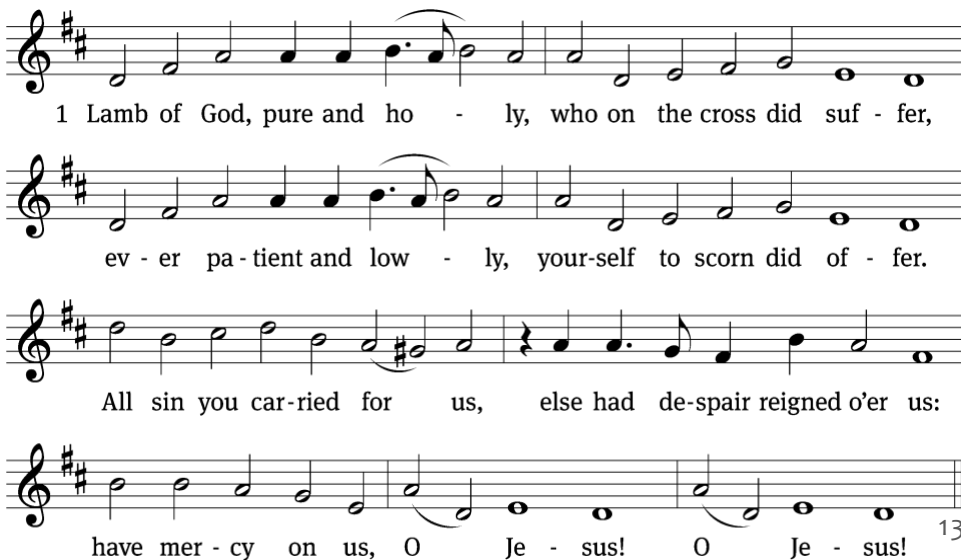
These opening words mark the beginning of the Sacrament and are among the oldest words in the liturgy.

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



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!

John the Baptist declared Jesus to be God's Lamb (*Agnus Dei*), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

## Distribution

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

## Thanksgiving

*Psalms 136:1*

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

*1 Cor. 11:26*

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

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

*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

Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor



1 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor in the  
 2 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor while the  
 3 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor through the  
 4 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor as we



fu - ry of the storm— when the winds of doubt blow  
 tem - pest ra - ges on— when temp - ta - tion claims the  
 floods of un - be - lief— hope - less, some - how, O my  
 face the wave of death— when these trials give way to



through me and my sails have all been torn,  
 bat - tle and it seems the night has won,  
 soul now, lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry.  
 glo - ry and we draw our fi - nal breath,



in the suf - f'ring, in the sor - row, when my  
 deep - er still then goes the an - chor, though I  
 This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see his  
 we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be -  
 Christ, the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er



sink - ing hopes are few, I will hold fast to the  
 just - ly stand ac - cused; I will hold fast to the  
 love for - ev - er proved; I will hold fast to the  
 hind and life se - cure, and the calm will be the  
 faith - ful, ev - er true— we will hold fast to the

*4th stanza repeat italics*



an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.  
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.

# 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, 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





## **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!







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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.