

IDENTITY revealed

Jesus Is the Christ, the One Who Calls

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, January 25, 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.

Series Explanation: Epiphany Moments

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

Worship Series Schedule: Identity Revealed

January 11: Jesus Is the Christ, the Anointed One

January 18: Jesus Is the Lamb of God

January 25: Jesus Is the Christ, the One Who Calls

February 1: Jesus Calls You Blessed

February 8: Jesus Calls You Salt and Light

February 15: Jesus is the Son of God in Glory

Today's Focus: *Jesus Is the Christ, the One Who Calls*

Since Jesus was the Christ, he had a number of roles to fulfill. He was the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and King, and he was the Savior. He was also the one who called people to faith in him and sent them to be his witnesses to the world. He called Saint Paul to join the apostles as a missionary to the Gentiles. He also calls us to lives of faith and witness.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

For Sunday, January 25, 2026

Hymn

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, high - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part com - fort to a
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, by your Spir - it

blood for me, died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; all my wants to him are known,
and your Word. When my way - ward heart would stray,

lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, love that found me—
joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, faith and hope to
all my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in
keep me in the nar - row way; grace in time of

to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
won - drous thought— found me when I sought him not.
walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.
need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † 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.**

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 † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

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.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

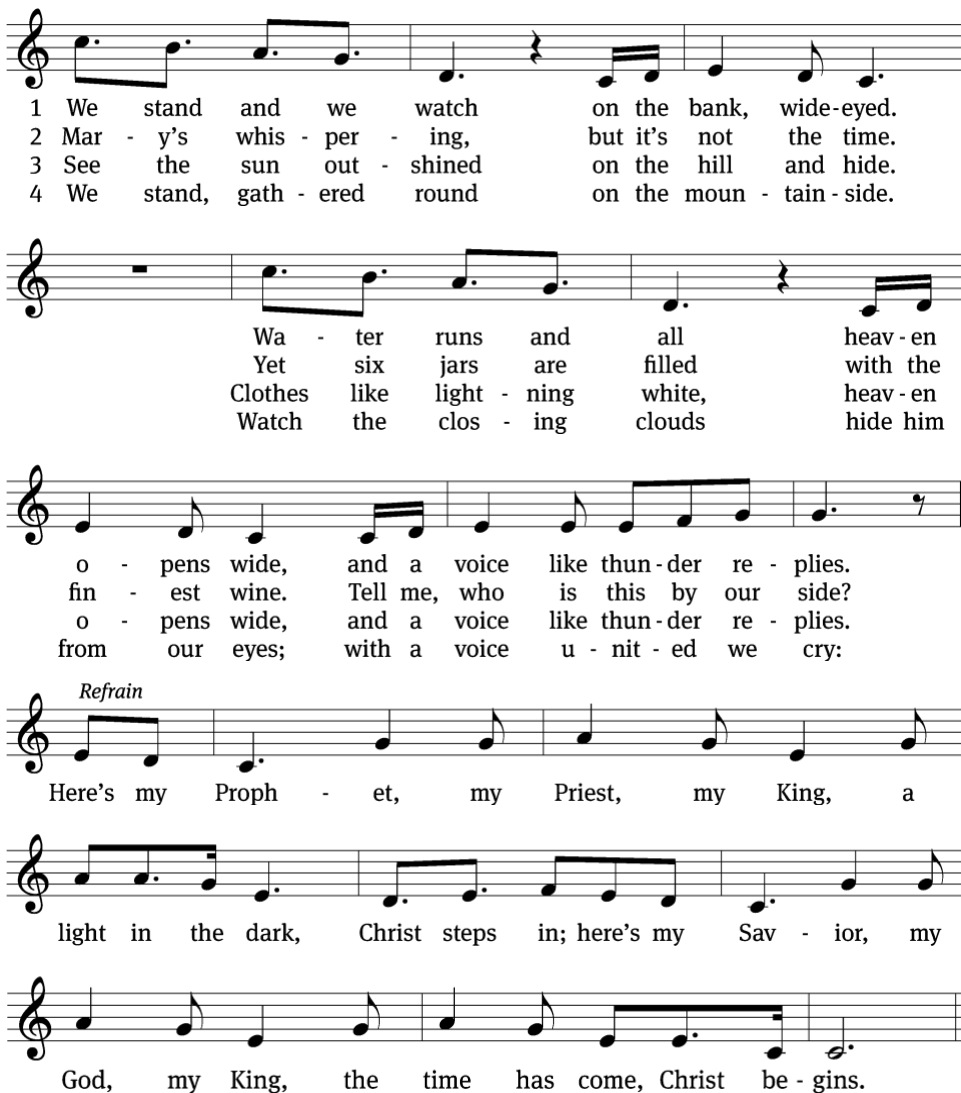
1 John 3:1

And that is what we are! Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise

Christ Begins

This song of praise takes us through the Epiphany season. Stanza 1: the Baptism of Jesus (Epiphany 1); stanza 2: the Wedding at Cana (Epiphany 2); stanza 3: Transfiguration (Last Sunday of Epiphany); refrain: the Season of Epiphany.



1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.
 2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.
 3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.
 4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain - side.

Wa - ter runs and all heav - en
 Yet six jars are filled with the
 Clothes like light - ning white, heav - en
 Watch the clos - ing clouds hide him

o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
 fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?
 o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
 from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

Refrain
 Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a
 light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my
 God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

Please be seated.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, through the conversion of your apostle Paul, you caused the light of the gospel to shine in all the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth that is in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



The Word

Reading

Acts 9:1–22

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Jesus appears to Saul, later named Paul, on the road to Damascus.

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” ²²Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Paul describes what happened before and after his conversion.

Reading

Galatians 1:11–24

¹¹I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my

immediate response was not to consult any human being. ¹⁷I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. ²⁰I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

²¹Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²²I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴And they praised God because of me.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. Alleluia.

1 Timothy 1:15

Speak, O Lord st. 1

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,

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



Converting to
Christianity
changes lives
for eternity.

Reading

Galatians 1:11–24

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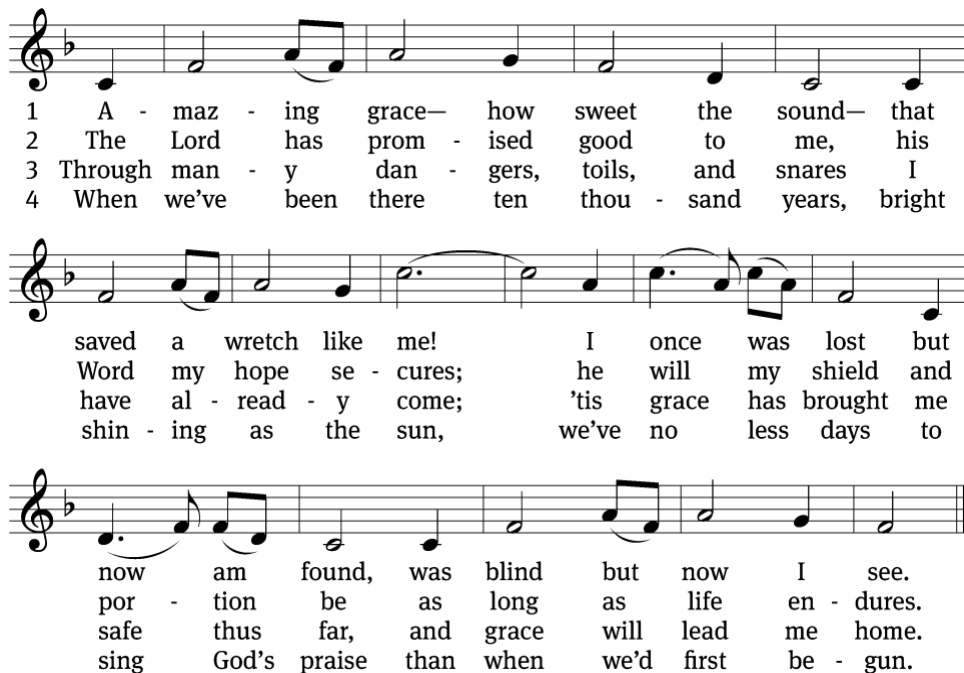
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The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

379 *Amazing Grace*



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Acts 9:1–22

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!

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.

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.

Hymn

May the Peace of God



1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther,
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,



and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,
and this grace which makes us what we are,



and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion



keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.
make us one in spir - it and in heart.



And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign



from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.



We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain—



Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

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.



Joint Campus Ministry Retreat – Friday and Saturday

About 15 students from NMU are coming to Peace on Friday and Saturday to spend time with students from MTU. **Our regular weekly Wednesday meeting will be moved from Wednesday to this weekend.** There will be dinner, Bible study, and games on Friday. On Saturday, will have breakfast and a devotion, followed by skiing at Mont Ripley. Members are invited to come to breakfast on Saturday as well.

If you are interested in providing breakfast items on Saturday, please see the sign-up sheet at the table in the entryway.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
January 25	Cody	Steve	Zack	x	Gabriela	Ivy
February 1	Steve	Cody	Nate	x	Mary Ann	Liesel
February 8	Cesar	Scott	Zack	x	Karin	help needed
February 15	Steve	Steve	Nate	x	Amy Spahn	help needed

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!

