HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

November 15, 2026

Words of Welcome

We welcome Pastor Matthew Henning who will be preaching and installing Pastor Paula as our Interim Pastor at the 10:45 service.

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** ELW 632

Greeting

From the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection, grace and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.
Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

This is the Feast

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, **our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

[Sit]

Youth Message

Choral Anthem

Many Gifts, One Spirit Mar Lynn Lightfoot
The Luther Singers

First Lesson **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has
prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with
lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their
hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and
their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they
plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near
and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a
day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and
battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress
upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their
blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath in the fire of his passion the whole
earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Response: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm **Psalm 90:1-8, 12**

(*Congregation speaks together.)*

[1]Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
[2]Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
[3]You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
[4]For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;
[5]you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
[6]in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
[7]For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
[8]Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[12]So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Lesson **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4]But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7]for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Response: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse [Stand]

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

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Response: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

[Sit]

Sermon

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day ***Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*** ELW 707

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Installation of Interim Pastor Paula Smith

Prayers

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

[After each petition, the congregation responds with: **hear our prayer.**]

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine (*especially*). Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The congregation is asked to greet one another with the words of Christ: "Peace be with you.")

Offering [Sit]

Offertory [Stand]

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be filled with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all, unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy . . . *(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

[Sit]

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's table.
We're nourished together by the body and blood of our Lord.

Communion Hymns	***One Bread, One Body***	ELW 496
	Christ, Be Our Ligh	ELW 715
	I want to Walk as a Child of the Light	ELW 815

Post-Communion Canticle

[Stand]

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ry one what he has done.
Let ev'ry one who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Post-Communion Prayer

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation ELW 679

Blessing

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

"The Peace of God"

(Sung by choir and congregation)

Whatsoever things are honest,
whatsoever things are true,
Whatsoever things are pure and lovely,
think on these things.
Whatsoever things are wholesome,
whatsoever things are good,
If there be any virtue, be any praise,
think on these things.
And the peace of God
that passes all understanding
Shall keep your hearts,
shall keep your minds
on Jesus Christ.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Our worship is ended; our service and our witness continue!"

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Serving Today

* Assisting Minister	8:15 service	Carol Townsend
	10:45 service	John Hanson
* Director of Music		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	Jan Austin
	10:45 service	John Hiscox
* Greeters	10:45 service	Art & Wanda Dodge
* Ushers	10:45 service	Steven & Amy Freese
* Communion Assistant	10:45 service	John Hiscox
* Counters		Karie Rench & Steven Freese

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 91

Calendar of Events for This Week

Monday	- Knitting & Crochet ministry, 2 PM
Tuesday	- Men's Bible Study/Ellijay, 9 AM, Mike's Restaurant
	- Ladies Bible Study, 12:15
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 8 AM-1 PM
	- Choir rehearsal, 5:30 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM
	- Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM
	- Council Meeting 4 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm – Psalm 95:1-7a
Second Reading – Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel – Matthew 25:31-46

Mid-Week Altar Guild – June Edgemon 11/15

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are…

8:15 **Lector** - No Early Service
10:00 **Lector** - Mike Hoover
Greeters -Joe & Kathy Orlando
Ushers -Steven & Amy Freese
Communion Asst -Mike Hoover
Counters -Sylvia Negri & Karen Baker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us on Sunday, November 22, 2026, as we gather in gratitude and fellowship! We will have one worship service at 10:00 AM, followed by a Thanksgiving Dinner in Founder's Hall.

The church will provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, and rolls. We ask that members of the congregation bring their favorite vegetable dishes, casseroles, salads, or desserts to share.

Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Week

The church will be closed Tuesday through Friday, November 23rd-27th. The office **will** be open on Monday, November 30th. If you have a pastoral need while the office is closed, please call Pastor Paula directly at 865-719-1292

Looking Ahead to December

-- We will decorate for Advent on Saturday, November 28th at 10 AM
-- Luther Singers Christmas Cantata, Sunday December 13th, during combined worship at 10 AM

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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"Making Christ known through reaching, welcoming, praising, equipping and sending"