



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

September 20, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C **Amen**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Faithful God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW 853

Greeting

A Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

This is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray together. Almighty and eternal God,

C **you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants.**

Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

[Sit]

Youth Message

Choral Anthem

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

John Wyeth

The Luther Singers

First Lesson

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹**I will exalt you, my God and king,**

and bless your name forever and ever.

²Every day will I bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Second Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Alleluia Verse

[Stand]



Holy Gospel

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



Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

[Sit]

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Apostles' Creed

**A 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**

Prayers

A Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Here other intercessions may be offered.
Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

The Peace

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **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 vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together. God our provider,

C **God of creation, you send rain and the earth
 springs forth abundantly.**

**All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our
 abilities, and our hearts**

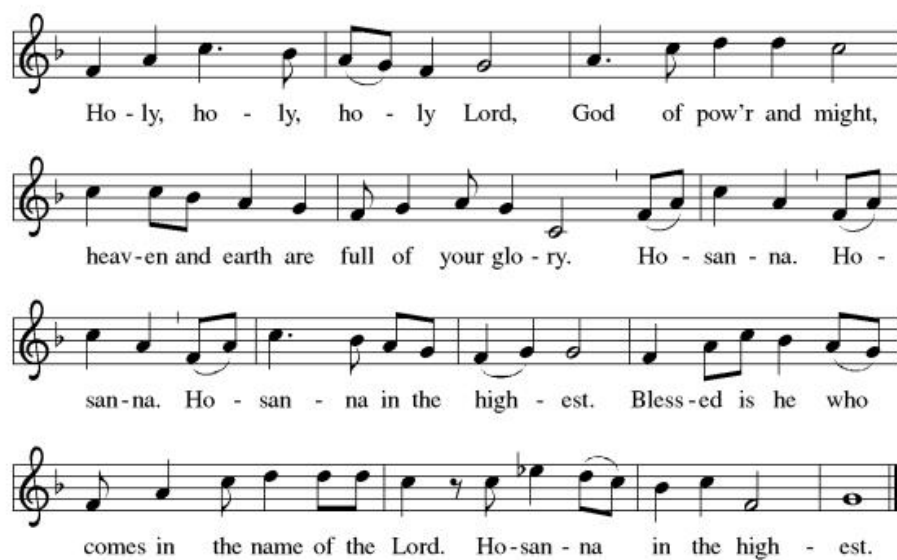
in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our 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.



Words of Institution

P 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

C **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**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way 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

***What Feast of Love
Give Me Jesus
Take My Life, That I may Be***

**ELW 487
ELW 770
ELW 685**

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 re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

P Sustaining God,

C **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.**

**By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

Blessing

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

“The Peace of God”

**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.**

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Dismissal

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C **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		
	10:00 service	Barbara Fail
* Greeters	10:00 service	Joe & Kathy Orlando
* Ushers	10:00 service	Steven & Amy Freese
* Communion Asst.	10:00 service	Barbara Fail
* Counters		Karie Rench & Karen Baker

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 97

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, 6 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM
	- Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalms – Psalm 25:1-9
Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-13
Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Charlie Brown
10:45 **Lector** – Karen Baker
Greeters – Janice Webber
Ushers – Rudy & Judy Kruger
Communion Asst. – Karen Baker
Counters – Sylvia Negri & Steven Freese

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Annual Report

The *2025 Annual Report of the Congregation* has been distributed by email to Hope members. Printed copies are available in the narthex. The document covers the ministries and activities of Hope Church this past year and a proposed budget for our next fiscal year, which began September 1st.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Our **2026 Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held today following the worship service. We'll hear reports from the President of the Congregation, the Treasurer, and the Pastor, and we'll vote on **approving the Annual Report, the Treasurer's Report, the Budget for 2025**, and the new Council members who have been nominated to serve on next year's Council – **June Edgemon, Karie Rench, and Shela Huff**.

Council members who are stepping down are **Ann Buehler, Billy Huff, and Doris Goplin**. We thank them for their service to our congregation.

After the meeting, please join us for a time of fellowship in **Founders Hal**

Blessing of the Animals

St. Francis of Assisi is recognized as the patron saint of animals. Many Christians mark the feast of St. Francis of Assisi – October 6th – by having their pets blessed. We will again be hosting a *Blessing of the Animals* here at Hope on the following day, Saturday, October 7th, at 10 AM. You're invited to bring your pets that day and participate.

We'll gather under the drive-through at the front entrance. There will be treats for the pets and a snack table for the proud owners! We'll publish this in the Jasper and Ellijay newspapers and invite the larger communities! Come join us!

Christmas Appeal and Bike Blessing

As in recent years past, our community Christmas gift appeal this year will be held throughout October to support our local American Legion Christmas Toy Ride. We're looking for **unwrapped** toys with a minimum price of \$10 for boys and girls aged birth to 14 years. Cash gifts will be gladly accepted! Make checks to Hope Lutheran Church with "Toy Ride" on the memo line.

Our Evangelism Team and Men's Group are going to host a *Blessing of the Bikes* (and Bikers) on Saturday, November 7th to kick off the Toy Ride and deliver your gifts to prepare for the Legion Christmas party. Please know how much the folks at the Legion appreciate your generosity for the sake of the children in our community! Boxes for toys will be set up in our narthex to receive these gifts.

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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Ministers: The People of Hope Church

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