



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Order of Worship

February 1, 2026

Words of Welcome

Today we welcome Rhenda Booth from Safe Choice Pregnancy Center to highlight the work they're doing to help and strengthen families in our community.

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

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**

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: we worship you and we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One; you alone are the Lord;
you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together. Holy God, **you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

[Sit]

Youth Message

"God Bless You!"

Choral Anthem

When the Angels' Song Is Silent

M. Bell

The Luther Singers

First Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." ⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm

(Congregation speaks together.)

Psalm 15

¹**LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?**

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,**

who speak the truth from their heart;

³**they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;**

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected,**

but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health

and do not take back their word.

⁵**They do not give their money in hope of gain,**

nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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 fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"Rejoice and Be Glad!"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW 754

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**

Prayers

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

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

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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

Let us pray together. O Lord our God, maker of all things, **through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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

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.

[Sit]

Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

We're nourished together by the body and blood of our Lord.

Communion Hymns

Gather Us In

ELW 532

Lord of Light

ELW 688

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

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

Let us pray together. Holy One, **we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.**
Amen

Hymn

Rise Up, O Saints of God

ELW 669

Benediction

God almighty send you his light and his truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you, his holy angels accompany you. + God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit cause his grace to be mighty upon you. **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.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Our worship is ended; our service and our witness continue!”

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Today's Heavenly Helpers

* Assisting Minister	8:15 service	Carol Townsend
* Assisting Minister	10:45 service	John Hanson
* Pianist		Sandy Hunter
* Choir Director		Matt Newton
* Lector	8:15 service	Ann Buehler
	10:45 service	Mike Hoover
* Greeters		Pam Guenther & Luis Santiago
* Ushers		Amy & Steven Freese
* Communion Asst.		Mike Hoover
* Counters		Barbara Mefford & Sylvia Negri

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 noon
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 8:45 AM-1 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM
	- Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalm – Psalm 112:1-9

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Gospel – Matthew 5:13-20

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Ann Berman

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Wayne Buehler

10:45 **Lector** – Aaron Engels

Greeters – Mike Hoover & LeRoy Polk

Ushers – Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber

Communion Asst. – Aaron Engels

Counters – Mike Hoover & Mary Leyden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Contribution Statements and 2025-2026 Estimate of Giving

The remaining contribution statements for 2022 have been mailed. The "Faith Response Estimate of Giving" statements that members completed last fall have been returned to you for your review. They are in member mailboxes in the narthex.

Next Ye Olde Funsters Outing

Our next outing will be Friday, February 5 when we meet at the church parking lot at 11:30 to carpool if you want and travel to The Double L Restaurant at 449 Industrial Blvd. (the same shopping center that contains Faith, Hope and Charity). This is a cafeteria style eatery with good Southern family food. They take credit cards and have lots of parking.

Following lunch we will proceed to the House of Applejay Distillery located at 67 Fowler St, East Ellijay (the old Sears store). For more information, call Jack O'Donovan at: 706-669-1285

Diaper Drive

Hope's Outreach team will host its annual \$\$ for Diapers Drive on February 15th. Join us for lunch in Founder's Hall after the late service for soup, sandwiches and dessert. This year we're asking for a cash or check donation to benefit the Safe Choice Pregnancy Center which will use the funds to purchase diapers. While we've collected diapers in the past, Center Director Rhenda Booth has shared that Safe Choice is able to secure diapers at significantly reduced prices through their suppliers, allowing every dollar donated to go even further.

If you'd like to donate by check, please make it payable to Hope Lutheran Church and write "Diapers" on the memo line.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Next Sunday, February 8th, is the Super Bowl, and we will again be taking a *Souper Bowl of Caring* offering to benefit local food pantries. This year your donations will go to the Gilmer Community Food Pantry.

Someone will be standing at the door with a soup pot after each service as you leave worship – please consider throwing in a dollar or two (or more) to support this wonderful ministry!

Lenten Season Starts February 18th

Ash Wednesday is on February 18th this year and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. We will have our traditional pancake supper that evening with the men of our church preparing pancakes, sausage, and juice for all of us. We will start serving at 5:30 PM so choir members can eat before their 6:00 rehearsal. The ushers today have a copy of the printed Lenten schedule to give you.

The Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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