



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
5th Sunday after Epiphany

Order of Worship

February 8, 2026

Words of Welcome

Today we welcome Ruth Moskovitz 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

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

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

Let us pray together. Lord God, **with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

[Sit]

Youth Message

"The Light of the World"

Choral Anthem

When the Angels' Song Is Silent

M. Bell

The Luther Singers

First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

Psalm

Psalms 112:1-9

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹**Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!**

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³**Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.**

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵**It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.**

⁶**For they will never be shaken;**

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
⁹They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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**



Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus said: ¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

Sermon

"Let Your Light Shine"

[Sit]

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light

[Stand]

ELW 715

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: **Receive 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]

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together. Liberating God, **you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, 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

O God of Light

ELW 507

Benediction

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **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!"

* * * * *

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the NRSV Bible, copyright 1989 Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Liturgy from Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress; and Lutheran Book of Worship ©1978 admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB161193.
Hymns streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-730066. All rights reserved. "When the Angels' Song Is Silent", Mary Kay Beall, ©1998 and this Arr. © 2003 Hope Publishing Co.; "The Peace of God" words adapted from Philippians 4:7-8 and music by Douglas E. Wagner; Copyright © 1983, Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.; used by permission of CCLI Streaming License #2735566

Today's Heavenly Helpers

* Assisting Minister	8:15 service	Carol Townsend
	10:45 service	John Hanson
* Church Pianist		Sandy Hunter
* Choir Director		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	Wayne Buehler
	10:45 service	Aaron Engels
* Greeters	10:45 service	Mike Hoover & LeRoy Polk
* Ushers	10:45 service	Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber
* Communion Asst.	10:45 service	Aaron Engels
* Counters		Mike Hoove & Mary Leyden

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 83

Calendar of Events for This Week

Monday	- Knitting & Crochet ministry, 2 PM
Tuesday	- Men's Bible Study/Elijah, 9 AM, Mike's Restaurant - Apple Country Quilt Guild (2 nd & 4 th) 10:30 AM - 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 – Exodus 24:12-18
Psalms – Psalm 2
Second Reading – 1 Peter 1:16-21
Gospel – Matthew 17:1-9

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Micky Northrup

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Sue Marler
10:45 **Lector** – Karen Baker
Greeters – Art & Wanda Dodge
Ushers – June & Leon Edgemon
Communion Asst. – Karen Baker
Counters – Steven Freese & Sylvia Negri

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Souper Bowl Sunday

Today is Super Bowl Sunday and a *Souper Bowl of Caring* offering will be taken up after each service that benefits local food pantries.

This year our donations will be given 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 a dollar or two (or more) in to support the wonderful efforts of the pantry!

Christ in Our Home

The daily devotional booklet, *Christ in Our Home*, is published once per quarter. Copies for January through March are available now in the narthex, first come, first served. Pick one up if you are interested.

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.

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



3295 Old Hwy 5 South

Ellijay, GA 30540

Telephone: 706.636.4673 (HOPE)

Email: hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com

Web site: www.hopeonthehill.church

Pastor: Rev. David Smedley

Ministers: The People of Hope Church

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