



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

4th Sunday of Lent

Order of Worship

March 15, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit 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. O God, our leader and guide, **bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

[Sit]

Youth Message

"Look and See"

Choral Anthem

I Glory in the Cross
The Luther Singers

A. Ballard

First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm

Psalm 23

(Congregation speaks together.)

**¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters.
³He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
For Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff,
they comfort me.
⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup runneth over.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, " Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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

[Stand]

Return to the Lord

**Return to the Lord our God for he is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



John 9:1-41

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"There's Blindness and Then There's BLINDNESS!"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

God Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

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

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

Offertory

**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. God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW 542

Lamb of God

ELW 336

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW 759

Post-Communion Canticle

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.

Mine own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal to you the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray together. Holy God, **Embodied God**, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of **Jesus**. **With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise**, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

Benediction

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **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. Serve in love. **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
	10:45 service	John Hanson
* Music Director		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	Carole English
	10:45 service	John Hiscox
* Greeters	10:45 service	Pam Guenther & Luis Santiago
* Ushers	10:45 service	Amy & Steven Freese
* Communion Asst.	10:45 service	John Hiscox
* Counters		Sylvia Negri & Mike Hoover

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 109

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 PM - April <i>anchor</i> deadline, noon
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 10 AM-12:30 PM - Service of the Word, noon - Lenten Vespers service, 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal, 6 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM - Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM
Saturday	- New Member Enquirer's class, 10 AM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm – Psalm 130

Second Reading – Romans 8:6-11

Gospel – John 11:1-45

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Doris Goplin 3/22

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Charlie Brown

10:45 **Lector** – Judy Kruger

Greeters – Ann & Jim Berman

Ushers – June & Leon Edgemon

Communion Asst. – Judy Kruger

Counters – Kari Rench & Barbara Mefford

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Each Wednesday through the Lenten season we will offer a Service of the Word at noon, soup and sandwich supper at 5:30, and a Service of Light at 7 PM. The theme for this year's Lenten Mid-Week preaching series is titled – *Questions of Lent*.

Friday Fish Fry at Good Samaritan Catholic Church

The Knights of Columbus Friday Fish Fry continues through Lent at Good Samaritan Catholic Church just off the square in downtown Ellijay. These suppers will continue through March 27th – the Friday before Palm Sunday. All are welcome!

Easter Lilies for the Altar

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex to sponsor an Easter lily for the altar either in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones. The cost for each plant is \$20.00. You can write a check to Hope Lutheran Church with "lily" on the memo line.

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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