



# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word  
9<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost/New Members

Order of Worship

July 26, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned against you and offended one another. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

*Gather Us In*

ELW 532

Greeting

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 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. Beloved and sovereign God, **through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

[Sit]

## Holy Baptism (10:45 Service)

### Youth Message

***"What's Heaven Like?"***

### Reception of New Members

*(Those wishing to join with the congregation as New Members are asked to come to the front of the sanctuary now as their name is read.)*

Roxanne Perez, Ron Lyons, Jenny Lyons and Mariane Arria (who's on line with us from New York)

Dear friends, we rejoice that you have come forward here in the household of God to make this commitment to be members with us in this congregation.

Will the congregation please stand.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now therefore I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? If so, say "I do." **I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father? **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? **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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? **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**

*(The congregation may be seated as the pastor addresses the New Members)*

New Members, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his word and share his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the world? **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Congregation, will you faithfully care for these new brothers and sisters in our midst? Will you help them in every way that God gives you opportunity, that they may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that, living in the covenant of their baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ? **I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Let us pray. We thank you Lord for these new members of our congregation. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one and you will be All-in-All. **Amen**

*(The New Members return to their seats and the service continues)*

## Special Music

**Two verses each of favorite hymns**

*The congregation*

## First Lesson

**1 Kings 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

## Psalms

**Psalms 119:129-136**

*(Congregation speaks together.)*

<sup>129</sup>**Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.**  
<sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**  
<sup>131</sup>**I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.**  
<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**  
<sup>133</sup>**Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.**  
<sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**  
<sup>135</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.**  
<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

## Second Lesson

**Romans 8:26-39**

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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. Mathew, the thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup>Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

[Sit]

## Sermon

***"We Are Weak, but He is Strong!"***

[Stand]

## Apostles' Creed (8:15 only)

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

[After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Your mercy is great.**]

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, 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

[Sit]

## Offertory Prayer

[Stand]

Let us pray together. God of field and forest, sea and sky, **you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, 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

***I Am the Bread of Life***

ELW 485

***Give Me Jesus***

ELW 770

***Lord, Be Glorified***

ELW 744

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray together. We thank you, generous God, **for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## Hymn

***God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens***

ELW 771

## Benediction

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **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 the Lord. **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  | Carol Townsend                |
|                      | 10:45 | John Hanson                   |
| * Director of Music  |       | Sandy Hunter                  |
| * Lector             | 8:15  | Carole English                |
|                      | 10:45 | Karen Baker                   |
| * Greeters           |       | Sandi & Fred St. John         |
| * Ushers             |       | Barbara Fail & Jack O'Donovan |
| * Communion Asst.    |       | Karen Baker                   |
| * Counters           |       | Karie Rench & Mike Hoover     |

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 112

### **Calendar of Events for This Week**

|           |                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | - Knitting & Crochet ministry, 2 PM                 |
| Tuesday   | - Men's Bible Study/Elijah, 9 AM, Mike's Restaurant |
|           | - Ladies Bible Study, 12:15                         |
| Wednesday | - Food Pantry, 8 AM-1 PM                            |
| Thursday  | - Quilters, 10 AM                                   |
|           | - Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM                           |

### **Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...**

**First Reading** – Isaiah 55:1-5  
**Psalm** – Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21  
**Second Reading** – Romans 9:1-5  
**Gospel** – Matthew 14:13-21

**Mid-Week Altar Guild** – June Edgemon 8/2

### **Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...**

8:15 **Lector** – Charlie Brown  
10:45 **Lector** – John Hiscox  
**Greeters** – Pam Guenther & Luis Santiago  
**Ushers** – Leon & June Edgemon  
**Communion Asst.** – John Hiscox  
**Counters** – Sylvia Negri & Barbar Mefford

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Time & Talent Folders**

For those of you who couldn't be here on Father's Day, the ushers at today's services will be standing by the baptismal font at the end of each service with Time & Talent folders for you to take a moment for you to fill out and return.

### **Shoes for Orphan Souls**

Our annual shoe collection continues. Please consider bringing new shoes, socks, or laces that will be given to children in the US and around the world. Athletic or canvas shoes and socks sized medium through Adult for school aged youth are preferred. A box will be available outside between the front doors into the month of August. The message these young people will receive is - *Jesus loves you!*

If you have any questions – call Diana Barbato at 706-636-1911.

### **Hope Ladies Gathering**

The next Ladies Gathering will be August 8th at 11:30 in Founders Hall. More details to come.

### **Honduras Mission Appeal**

Instead of having our traditional *La Buena Fe Cafe* luncheon this year to raise funds for the Beno family and their annual mission trip to Honduras, Hope Lutheran Church this year is making a monetary appeal like we did so successfully last year to raise money for our summer camp scholarships. The money raised will be used to buy medicine/medical supplies that Dr. Lucas Beno will take to Honduras and to provide scholarship money for young women through the Friends of Education-Honduras organization many of you have contributed to in the past.

For the next several Sundays through August 16<sup>th</sup> - you're being asked to put your money in the offering plate (or mail it to the church office). If writing a check - write "Honduras Mission" on the check's memo line. If putting in cash - put it in an offering envelope in the pew rack and - again - write "Honduras Mission" on the envelope.

### **Choir Retreat**

There will be a retreat for Hope's choir on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at Director of Music Sandy Hunters house from 10 AM to 3 PM. If you'd like to learn more about singing in Hope's choir - call Sandy at 404-729-1244.



### Welcome New Members!

Join with us this morning as we welcome four New Members here at Hope Lutheran Church. As always, this is an exciting time for us as our Lord continues to bring new families to add to our faithful number. They are:

| <u>Name &amp; Address</u>                                                               | <u>Phone &amp; Email</u>                                                                                                                                                           | <u>Congregation</u>                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Roxanne Perez<br>124 Navaho Trail, Apt 105<br>Jasper, GA 30143                          | 706-972-8301                                                                                                                                                                       | Affirmation of Faith                                    |
| Mariane B. Arria<br>820 Stoneybrook Trail<br>Holley, NY 14470                           | 585-638-8392<br>585-298-8454 (cell)<br><a href="mailto:arriamariane@gmail.com">arriamariane@gmail.com</a>                                                                          | Affirmation of Faith                                    |
| Ronald (Ron) &<br>Jennifer (Jenny) Lyons<br>155 Incline Drive<br>Talking Rock, GA 30175 | 770-815-6699 (Ron)<br>404-840-6287 (Jenny)<br><a href="mailto:roedly@bellsouth.net">roedly@bellsouth.net</a> (Ron)<br><a href="mailto:jo157@bellsouth.net">jo157@bellsouth.net</a> | Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran<br>Church, Morganton, GA |

## 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](mailto:hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.hopeonthehill.church](http://www.hopeonthehill.church)

Pastor: Rev. David Smedley  
Ministers: The People of Hope Church

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