



# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Order of Worship

April 26, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

*Canticle of the Turning*

ELW 723

Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God 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 of peace, **you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

[Sit]

### Youth Message

***"Jesus, Our Shepherd"***

### Choral Anthem

***The New 23<sup>rd</sup>***  
The Luther Singers

Carmichael/arr. Purifoy

### First Lesson

**Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup>The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

### Psalm

**Psalm 23**

*(Congregation speaks together.)*

<sup>1</sup>**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

<sup>2</sup>**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>**He restoreth my soul;  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for His name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup>**Yea, 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.**

<sup>5</sup>**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou anointest my head with oil,  
my cup runneth over.**

<sup>6</sup>**Surely 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

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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. John, the tenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**



**John 10:1-10**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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

[Sit]

## Sermon

***"That You May Have Life Abundantly!"***

[Stand]

## Hymn of the Day

***Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us***

ELW 789

## 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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

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

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **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. Risen One, **in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through 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 and salutary . . . *(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

<b><i>One Bread, One Body</i></b>	ELW 496
<b><i>My Shepherd, You Supply My Need</i></b>	ELW 782
<b><i>I Know That My Redeemer Lives!</i></b>	ELW 619

## 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. Living One, **Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen**

## Hymn

***God Be with You Till We Meet Again***

ELW 536

## Benediction

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **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

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## 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
* Director of Music		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	Duane Northrup
	10:45 service	Carol Townsend
* Greeters	10:45 service	Pam Guenther & Luis Santiago
* Ushers	10:45 service	Judy & Rudy Kruger
* Communion Assistant	10:45 service	Carol Townsend
* Counters		Mary Leyden & Karen Baker

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 107

**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** – Acts 7:55-60  
**Psalm** – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
**Second Reading** – 1 Peter 2:2-10  
**Gospel** – John 14:1-14

**Mid-Week Altar Guild** – Micky Northrup 5/3

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

8:15 **Lector** - Carole English  
10:45 **Lector** - Wanda Dodge  
**Greeters** – Ann & Jim Berman  
**Ushers** – Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber  
**Communion Asst** – Wanda Dodge  
**Counters** - Eileen Ashley & Karen Baker

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ladies Tea**

Thanks to all who helped make yesterday's Lady's High Tea such a wonderful success and fun time!

**Mother's Day**

Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day. We'll have a special treat for all the ladies of Hope waiting for you at the door as you come in to celebrate your special day!

**Church Directory to be Updated**

We are in the process of updating our Church Directory. A draft copy is posted on a clipboard by the narthex bulletin board. Please check your listing and let us know if any of your contact information needs to be updated. We plan to publish the new updated directory by the first of June.

You can write directly on the draft, send an email to the office (hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com) or leave a voice mail on the church telephone (706-636-4673).

**New Sunday School Class Begins May 10<sup>th</sup>**

On Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in Founders Hall, a new Sunday school class will begin studying the Book of Job. Many thanks to Janet Smedley who is wrapping up her study of the Book of Daniel.

# 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"*