



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
1st Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship
Words of Welcome

November 30, 2025

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

Greeting

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together. Stir up your power, **Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen**

Why have we gathered here? **To be alert!**

What are we looking for? **The coming of Jesus.**

What candle are we lighting? **We light the candle of Hope!**

*While the candle is lighted, the congregation sings the first verse of
"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

ELW 240

Youth Message

"Let's Remember!"

Holy Baptism

This morning at the 10:45 service we celebrate the baptism of Oliver Wallace Rench. Oliver is the son of Megan & Tyler Rench. He was born December 5, 2024. Oliver's sponsor is Nathania Baptiste.

Presentation

Oliver's family and sponsor gather with the minister at the font. (stand)

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The presiding minister addresses the family and sponsors.

Do you desire for Oliver to be baptized into Christ? **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly

People of God, do you promise to support Oliver and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses Oliver's family and the congregation

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

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, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Laineey and her family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

Baptism

The presiding minister baptizes Oliver.

Oliver Wallace Rench, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give Oliver new birth, cleanse him from sin, and raise him to eternal life.

Laying a hand on Oliver's head, the minister prays:

Sustain Oliver with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on Oliver's forehead.

Oliver, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen

Welcome

A candle is lit. The minister says:

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome Oliver into the Lord's family:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Choral Anthem

Bethlehem Wind

Joseph M. Martin

The Luther Singers

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

Psalm

(Congregation speaks together.)

Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
²Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD. R
⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you."
⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.
⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus said to the disciples: ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

[Sit]

Sermon "Watch" [Stand]

Hymn of the Day *Fling Wide the Door* ELW 259

Apostles' Creed (8:15 service 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

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

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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. Creator God, **Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ 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

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 490

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

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. Generous God, **Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

Benediction

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the 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. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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

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Prayer List

In addition to those named during worship today, a full prayer list is available in *the anchor*.

Today's Heavenly Helpers

* Assisting Minister	8:15 service	Carol Townsend
	10:45 service	John Hanson
* Church Pianist		Sandy Hunter
* Choir Director		Matt Newton
* Lector	8:15 service	Sue Marler
	10:45 service	Barbara Fail
* Greeters	10:45 service	Ted & Maureen Grener
* Ushers	10:45 service	Leon & June Edgemon
* Communion Assistant	10:45 service	Barbara Fail
* Counters		

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 128

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, 10 AM-12:30 PM
	- Choir rehearsal, 6 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM
	- Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Second Reading – Romans 15:4-13

Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Micky Northrup

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** - Wayne Buehler

10:45 **Lector** - Mike Hoover

Greeters – Ann & Jim Berman

Ushers – Rudy & Judy Kruger

Communion Asst – Mike Hoover

Counters – Barbara Mefford & Sylvia Negri

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you'd like to sponsor a poinsettia plant (or two) for this year's Christmas decorations at Hope, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please indicate either "in honor of" or "in memory of" special people in your life. The cost for each plant is \$12.00 this year. You can place your check in the offering plate.

Please note: names written on offering envelopes might be unintentionally overlooked. Please use the signup sheet in the narthex.

Ye Olde Funsters

The next outing for Ye Olde Funsters will be Friday, December 5th. The destination is the Roo Vineyard for lunch. More details to follow. For questions, call Jack O'Donovan at 706-669-1285.

Christmas Cantata on December 14th

On Sunday, December 14th, our Luther Singers will present their Christmas cantata, *The Ballad of Bethlehem*, written and arranged by Pepper Choplin. We will meet together for one worship service that day, at 10 AM. You will hear some familiar tunes, and some new music, to tell the story of our savior's birth. Plan to join us that morning!

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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