



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
The Ascension of Our Lord

Order of Worship

May 17, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **Amen**

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life, **by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

ELW 855

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 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. Almighty God, **your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Youth Message

Choral Anthem

Let All the Church Rise Up with Praise

Green/arr. Liebergen

The Luther Singers

First Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

Luke writes: ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

Psalms

Psalm 47

(Congregation speaks together.)

**¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.**

**²For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**

**³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;**

⁴who chooses our inheritance for us,

the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.
⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.
⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.
⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.
⁸God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.
⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people
of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Alleluia Verse

**Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Homily

Pastor Delmer Chilton

Hymn of the Day

Rejoice, for Christ is King!

ELW 430

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 is 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

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. Risen One, **you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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.

Communion

*All are welcome at the Lord's table.
We're nourished together by the body and blood of our Lord.
Communion today will be by intinction.*

Communion Hymns	<i>As We Gather at Your Table</i>	ELW 522
	<i>A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!</i>	ELW 393
	<i>In Christ There is No East or West</i>	ELW 650

Post-Communion Canticle

**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, 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**

Closing Hymn	<i>Beautiful Savior</i>	ELW 838
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Benediction

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

Dismissal

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. **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	Carol Townsend
* Director of Music		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	Ann Buehler
	10:45 service	Aaron Engles
* Greeters	10:45 service	Kathy & Joe Orlando
* Ushers	10:45 service	June & Leon Edgemon
* Communion Assistant	10:45 service	Aaron Engles
* Counters		Mary Leyden & Steven Freese

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 132

Calendar of Events for This Week

Monday	- Knitting & Crochet ministry, 2 PM
Tuesday	- Men's Bible Study/Elijay, 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 2:1-21

Psalm – Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel – John 20:19-23

Mid-Week Altar Guild – June Edgemon 5/24

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** - Charlie Brown

10:45 **Lector** - Karen Baker

Greeters – Wanda & Art Dodge

Ushers – Judy & Rudy Kruger

Communion Asst – Karen Baker

Counters – Barbara Mefford & Sylvia Negri

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Pastor Chilton!

Today, while Pastor Dave and Janet are on vacation, we welcome Pastor Delmer Chilton as our guest preacher and presider. Pastor Delmer - who has been with us before - is retired and lives up north (although you'd never know it by his accent).

Pastor Dave will be back on Wednesday. If you need to talk with him - call him at 404-226-6833.

Thank you, Pastor Chilton!

Blessing of the Bikes Next Saturday

Our spring *Blessing of the Bikes* will take place on Saturday, May 23RD. We'll serve breakfast at 9:30 AM and the *Blessing of the Bikes* will follow in the parking lot. We look forward to greeting our motorcycle friends from around the area for this traditional event.

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 24th

On Sunday, May 24th at 9:30 AM in Founders Hall, a new Sunday school class will begin studying the Book of Job.

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"*