



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
Baptism of Our Lord

Order of Worship

January 11, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310

Greeting

From the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection, 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. O God our Father, **at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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

"I Am Very Happy with You"

Choral Anthem

At the Riverside
The Luther Singers

arr. Joel Raney

First Lesson

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

Psalms

Psalm 29

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

**¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

Second Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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 third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"Prepare the Way"

Hymn of the Day

Shall We Gather at the River

[Stand]

ELW 423

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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

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

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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. Liberating God, **you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus 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

In Christ Called to Baptize

ELW 575

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

ELW 313

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

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. Holy One, **we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen**

Hymn

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

Benediction

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **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. Follow the way of Jesus. **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		John Hanson
* Church Pianist		Sandy Hunter
* Choir Director		Matt Newton
* Lector	8:15 service	Jan Austin
	10:45 service	Aaron Engels
* Greeters	10:45 service	Art & Wanda Dodge
* Ushers	10:45 service	Janice Webber & Jeannine Sieck
* Communion Asst.	10:45 service	Aaron Engels
* Counters		Mike Hoover & Mary Leyden

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 102

Calendar of Events for This Week

Monday	- Knitting & Crochet ministry, 2 PM
Tuesday	- Men's Bible Study/Ellijay, 9 AM, Mike's Restaurant - Apple Country Quilt Guild (2 nd & 4 th) 10:30 AM - Ladies Bible Study, 12:15 noon
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 9 AM-3 PM - Choir Rehearsal 6 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM - Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM - Calendar meeting, 4:30 PM - Congregation Council, 5:30 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm – Psalm 40:1-11

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel – John 1:29-42

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Ann Buehler

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Charlie Brown

10:45 **Lector** – Carol Townsend

Greeters – Sandi & Fred St. John

Ushers – Steven & Amy Freese

Communion Asst. – Pamela Guenther

Counters – Steven Freese & Sylvia Negri

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025-2026 Estimate of Giving

The "*Faith Response Estimate of Giving*" statements that members completed last fall have been returned to you for your review. They are in member mailboxes in the narthex.

Pregnancy Center Tour

The Outreach Team will be touring the Safe Choice Pregnancy center this Thursday, January 15th at 11:00 AM. Director Rhenda Booth will be giving a tour and explaining how they help local young families. The Center is located at 220 Sailors Dr., Ellijay, GA. Everyone is welcome to join us to learn about the center.

\$\$ for Diapers

Hope's Outreach team will be having its annual \$\$ for Diaper Drive on February 15th. We will be serving lunch in Founders Hall which will include soup, sandwich and desserts. We're asking for either a cash or check donation for the Safe Choice Pregnancy Center to purchase diapers. In the past we've asked that you bring diapers, but Center Director Rhenda Booth says she has suppliers that give her the best price, cheaper than we can buy. Please join us!!

Movie Night

Our next movie night has been scheduled for Friday, January 16th. We'll start with dinner at 6:30 (provided by the church) – followed by the movie – all downstairs in Founders Hall.

Please bring a snack to share during the movie.

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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