



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

August 16, 2026

Words of Welcome

Temple Talk

James Sease

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

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

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. God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

[Sit]

Youth Message

"Faith"

Choral Anthem

Shout to the North

Martin Smith

The Luther Singers

First Lesson

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

Psalms

Psalms 67

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations on earth.

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.

⁷May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Lesson

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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



Matthew 15:21-28

[¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"Are You a Fool for Love?"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

In Christ There is No East or West

ELW 650

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

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

[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. 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

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

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (vs. 1-4)

ELW 777

Rock of Ages

ELW 623

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW 610

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. 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**

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 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	Art & Wanda Dodge
* Ushers	10:45 service	Steven & Amy Freese
* Communion Asst.	10:45 service	Carol Townsend
* Counters		Mary Leyden & Mike Hoover

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/Ellijay, 9 AM, Mike's Restaurant - Ladies Bible Study, 12:15 - Annual Reports deadline, noon
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 – Isaiah 51:-6

Psalm – Psalm 138

Second Reading – Romans 12:1-8

Gospel – Matthew 16:13-20

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Ann Buehler 8/23

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** - Ann Buehler

10:45 **Lector** - Barbara Fail

Greeters - Maureen & Ted Grener

Ushers -Rudy & Judy Kruger

Communion Asst -Barbara Fail

Counters -Sylvia Negri & Barbara Mefford

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shoes for Orphan Souls

Our annual collection of shoes will continue through next Sunday. Please consider donating new shoes, socks, or laces that will be given to children in the US and around the world. Athletic or canvas shoes sized Youth 1 through Adult are preferred. Sponsored by Buckner International, missionaries tell the children of the love of Jesus as they fit them with shoes. For many of these children, it is the first pair of new shoes they have ever had and will enable them to attend school.

A collection box is available outside the main entrance door of the sanctuary. If you have questions, please contact Diana Barbato at 706-636-1911.

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"*



You are cordially invited to a reception celebrating
Pastor David E. Smedley, Jr.
on his retirement as called pastor of
Hope Lutheran Church in Ellijay, Georgia
after 27 years of service

Saturday, September 19, 2026
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Legacy Event Hall
772 Maddox Drive, Suite 110
(Clock Tower Center)
East Ellijay, Georgia 30540

Baskets will be available for cards of
congratulations and a Thank You cash purse.
Light buffet will be served.

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