



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

3rd Sunday of Lent

Order of Worship

March 8, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling 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. Merciful God, **the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

"A Drink That Lasts and Lasts"

Choral Anthem

Lamb of God

Twila Paris

The Luther Singers

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

Psalm

Psalm 95

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹**Come, let us sing to the LORD;**

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³**For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.**

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵**The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.**

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷**For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.**

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.
⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
¹⁰Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'
¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'

Second Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

[Stand]

Return to the Lord

**Return to the Lord our God for he is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel

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



John 4:5-42

⁵Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he? ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"I Met a Man..."

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779

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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

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

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through 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

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. God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i> (vs - 1, 2 &3)	ELW 490
<i>God Loved the World</i>	ELW 323
<i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</i>	ELW 759

Post-Communion Canticle

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.
Mine own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal to you the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray together. Holy God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen**

Closing Hymn

<i>I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say</i>	ELW 611
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Benediction

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **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 in love. **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	
	10:45 service	Carol Townsend
* Director of Music		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	Ann Buehler
	10:45 service	Janet Smedley
* Greeters	10:45 service	Maureen & Ted Grener
* Ushers	10:45 service	Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber
* Communion Asst.	10:45 service	Janet Smedley
* Counters		Kari Rench & 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
	- Apple Country Quilt Guild (2 nd Tuesday) 10:30 AM
	- Ladies Bible Study, 12 noon
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 8:45 AM-1 PM
	- Lenten Service of the Word – noon
	- Soup & sandwich supper – 5:30 PM
	- Choir Rehearsal, 6 PM
	- Lenten Vespers service – 7 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM
	- Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM
	- Calendar meeting, 4:30 PM
Friday	- Fish Fry, Good Samaritan Catholic Church, 5-7 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm – Psalm 23

Second Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel – John 9:1-41

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Ann Buehler 3/15

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Carole English

10:45 **Lector** – John Hiscox

Greeters – Pam Guenther & Luis Santiago

Ushers – Amy & Steven Freese

Communion Asst. – John Hiscox

Counters – Sylvia Negri & Mike Hoover

ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYERS

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Each Wednesday through the Lenten season we will offer a Service of the Word at noon, soup and sandwich supper at 5:30, and a Service of Light at 7 PM. The theme for this year's Lenten Mid-Week preaching series is titled – *Questions of Lent*.

Friday Fish Fry at Good Samaritan Catholic Church

The Knights of Columbus Friday Fish Fry continues through Lent at Good Samaritan Catholic Church just off the square in downtown Ellijay. These suppers will continue through March 27th – the Friday before Palm Sunday. All are welcome!

Easter Lilies for the Altar

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex to sponsor an Easter lily for the altar either in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones. The cost for each plant is \$20.00. You can write a check to Hope Lutheran Church with "lily" on the memo line.

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"*