



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
5th Sunday of Easter

Order of Worship

April 28, 2024

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the faithful community living out Christ's mercy and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

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**

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, **you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 the Vine..."

Choral Anthem

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Pethel

The Luther Singers

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Psalms

Psalm 22:25-31

(Congregation speaks together.)

²⁵**From you comes my praise in the great assembly;**

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.**
²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**
²⁹**Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.**
³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
³¹**They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them,
"The LORD has acted!"**

Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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



John 15:1-8

Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"God is Love!"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359

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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

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

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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

[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. Risen One, **you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

Take My Life that I May Be

ELW 685

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. Shepherding God, **you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen**

Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881

Benediction

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now 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

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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	Ellen Hancock
* Church Pianist		Sandy Hunter
* Choir Director		Matt Newton
* Lector	8:15 service	Charlie Brown
	10:45 service	Joan Blomquist
* Greeters	10:45 service	Mike & Linda Hoover
* Ushers	10:45 service	Janice Weber & Jack O'Donovan
* Communion Assistant	10:45 service	Joan Blomquist
* Counters		Mary Leyden & Mike Hoover

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 117

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...

Old Testament – Acts 10:44-48

Psalm – Psalm 98

Epistle – 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel – John 15:9-17

Mid-Week Altar Guild – June Edgemon

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Duane Northrup

10:45 **Lector** – John Hiscox

Greeters – LeRoy Polk & Jim Beno

Ushers – June & Leon Edgemon

Communion Asst. – John Hiscox

Fellowship – Janet Smedley & Sharon Smith

Counters – Barb Mefford & Amy Freese

Prayer List

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Update

The church has recently purchased the first three seasons of the movie series – *The Chosen*. Beginning with the first season, the 9:30 Adult Sunday class in Founders Hall is currently viewing an episode each week (they last about 45 minutes) with time for discussion following the showing. All are welcome to join with the class.

Spring Blessing of the Bikes

Our Spring *Blessing of the Bikes* will take place Saturday, May 4th at 9 AM. The Blessing will be held at the American Legion instead of here at the church.

VBS in June

After several years of no VBS, Hope Church is scheduling an inter-generational VBS for three nights in early June. It'll be a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening schedule starting at 6:00 PM in Founders Hall. There'll be crafts, music and bible classes for all ages! Dinner starts at 6:00 PM.

We'll know more about the exact dates (either in the first week of June or the second) – we'll get back to you in the next few days so you can make your plans.

The sessions will be called **Camp Firelight**. It'll be fun for all ages! Plan to be with us!

Dumpster/ Spring Clean-Up

A 30-foot dumpster will be dropped off at Hope on Monday, May 13th and we'll have it for two weeks. Different ministry groups at the church have been alerted to begin sorting out their junk from their treasures so we can begin uncluttering our church home.

When that's done? We'll put down flooring in several classrooms, the knitters and the quilters rooms downstairs.

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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