



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
19th Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

October 4, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Open Now They Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

Greeting

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, 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

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

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

[Sit]

Youth Message

Choral Anthem

Rain Down

The Luther Singers

Cortez/Carter

First Lesson

Isaiah 5:1–7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

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

Psalm

Psalm 80:7-15

(Congregation speaks together.)

⁷**Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**
⁸**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**
⁹**You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.**
¹⁰**The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
¹¹**You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.**
¹²**Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
¹³**The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.**
¹⁴**Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**
¹⁵**behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.**

Second Lesson

Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



Matthew 21:33–46

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”
⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

[Sit]

Sermon

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

As Saints of Old

ELW 695

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

[After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Your mercy is great.**]

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our 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]

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be filled with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all, unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together.

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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

[Sit]

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

*Christ invites you to his table
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!*

Communion Hymns

As the Grains of Wheat
My Lord of Light
When I Survey the Wondrous

ELW 465

ELW 832

ELW 803

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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

The Church of Christ, In Every Age

ELW 595

Benediction

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ 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 out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Our worship is ended; our service and our witness continue!”

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Serving Today

* Assisting Minister	8:15 service	Pastor Paula
	10:45 service	Pastor Paula
* Director of Music		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	Sue Marler
	10:45 service	Aaron Ingles
* Greeters	10:45 service	Ann & Jim Berman
* Ushers	10:45 service	Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber
* Communion Assistant	10:45 service	Aaron Ingles
* Counters		Karie Rench & Steven Freese

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 98

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, 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 25:1-9

Psalm – Psalm 23

Second Reading – Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14

Mid-Week Altar Guild – June Edgemon 10/11

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** - Jan Austin

10:45 **Lector** -Carol Townsend

Greeters – Maureen & Ted Grener

Ushers – Mike Hoover & Barbara Fail

Communion Asst – Carol Townsend

Counters - Barbara Mefford & Sylvia Negri

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Appeal and Bike Blessing

As in recent years past, our community Christmas gift appeal this year will be held throughout October to support our local American Legion Christmas Toy Ride. We're looking for **unwrapped** toys with a minimum price of \$10 for boys and girls aged birth to 14 years. Cash gifts will be gladly accepted! Make checks to Hope Lutheran Church with "Toy Ride" on the memo line.

Our Evangelism Team and Men's Group are going to host a *Blessing of the Bikes* (and Bikers) on Saturday, November 4th to kick off the Toy Ride and deliver your gifts to prepare for the Legion Christmas party. Please know how much the folks at the Legion appreciate your generosity for the sake of the children in our community! Boxes for toys are set up in our narthex to receive these gifts.

Octoberfest Is Fast Approaching

OctoberFest 2026 will be Saturday, October 24th, between the hours of 11 AM and 2 PM. We'll have German brat plates and barbecue plates available for \$12 per plate (\$6 for children and youth). And, of course, we'll have our wonderful craft bazaar – perfect for getting a head start on Christmas! There will also be a bake sale. Then at the end of the day we'll have a drawing for raffle ticket winners.

Plan to join us on the 24th and invite your neighbors and friends! There will be an announcement in the local paper but the very best advertising is word-of-mouth.

OctoberFest Raffle Tickets

Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets! Tickets will be available for sale after church each Sunday and will also be available during the Craft Sale on October 24th. Be sure to get yours for a chance to win!

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Our Evangelism Team and Men's Group are going to host a *Blessing of the Bikes* (and Bikers) in early November to kick off the Toy Ride and deliver your gifts to prepare for the Legion Christmas party. Please know how much the folks at the Legion appreciate your generosity for the sake of the children in our community! Boxes for toys will be set up in our narthex to receive these gifts.

Ladies Luncheon

Trick **OR** Treat Gathering! Join us on Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 AM downstairs in Founder's Hall for a fun fall luncheon! Bring a bag with a "trick **OR** treat" inside. Bring something delicious to eat and share. Feel free to get into the Halloween spirit and wear a Halloween mask! If you have made crafts for Oktoberfest, please bring those with you to the luncheon as well. Come enjoy great food, fall fun, and fellowship! Questions? Call Bev at 478-714-7282.

Calling All Men of Hope!

The men of the church are invited to gather every Tuesday at 9:00 AM at Mike's Restaurant on Hwy. 282 in Ellijay for Bible study, breakfast, and fellowship. Come enjoy a good meal, meaningful conversation, and time together in God's Word. All men are welcome!

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"*