

One and



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Order of Worship

January 25, 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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

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. Lord God, **your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us.**

Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

[Sit]

Youth Message

"Follow Me"

Choral Anthem

When the Angels' Song Is Silent

M. Bell

The Luther Singers

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

Psalm

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD

and to seek God in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,

and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,

sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper;

forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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



Matthew 4:12-23

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"The Kingdom of Heaven Has Come Near"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me?

ELW 798

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'ly 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

Gather Us In

ELW 532

Lord of Light

ELW 688

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

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

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 697

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	Duane Northrup
	10:45 service	Judy Kruger
* Greeters	10:45 service	Ann & Jim Berman
* Ushers	10:45 service	Leon & June Edgemon
* Communion Asst.	10:45 service	Judy Kruger
* Counters		Kari Rench & Karen Baker

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 111

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 PM
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 8:45 AM-1 PM
Thursday	- Hope Quilters, 10 AM
	- Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Micah 6:1-8
Psalm – Psalm 15
Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Gospel – Matthew 5:1-12

Mid-Week Altar Guild – June Edgemon

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Ann Buehler
10:45 **Lector** – Mike Hoover
Greeters – Pam Guenther & Luis Santiago
Ushers – Amy & Steven Freese
Communion Asst. – Mike Hoover

Counters – Barbara Mefford & Sylvia Negri

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Contribution Statements are Ready

Contribution statements for 2025 have been distributed. Member statements are in narthex mail boxes. Any statements that are not picked up will be mailed at the end of the month. Please pick up your copy and help us save on postage costs.

Diaper Drive

Hope's Outreach team will host its annual \$\$ for Diapers Drive on February 15th. Join us for lunch in Founder's Hall after the late service for soup, sandwiches and dessert. This year we're asking for a cash or check donation to benefit the Safe Choice Pregnancy Center which will use the funds to purchase diapers. While we've collected diapers in the past, Center Director Rhenda Booth has shared that Safe Choice is able to secure diapers at significantly reduced prices through their suppliers, allowing every dollar donated to go even further.

If you'd like to donate by check, please make it payable to Hope Lutheran Church and write "Diapers" in the memo line.

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 8th, is the Super Bowl, and we will again be taking a *Souper Bowl of Caring* offering to benefit local food pantries. This year your donations will go to the Gilmer Community Food Pantry.

Someone will be standing at the door with a soup pot after each service as you leave worship – please consider throwing in a dollar or two (or more) to support this wonderful ministry!

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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