



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word
12th after Pentecost/*Returning Thanks Sunday*

Order of Worship

August 31, 2025

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Opening Hymn

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW 774

Greeting

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 697

"Glory to God Forever"

Before the world was made, before you spoke it to be,
You were the king of Kings, yeah You were, yeah You were.
And now You're reigning still, enthroned above all things
Angels and saints cry out – we join them as we sing:

Chorus:

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God forever.
Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God forever.**

Creator God You gave me breath so I could praise
Your great and matchless name all my day, all my days.
So let my whole life be a blazing offering
A life that shouts and sings the greatness of our King.

Chorus

Take my life and let it be all for You and for Your glory;
Take my life and let it be Yours.
Take my life and let it be all for You and for your glory;
Take my life and let it be Yours.

Chorus

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together. O God, **you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

[Sit]

Youth Message

"Give It Away"

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 26:1-2, 8-11

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.'

⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

Psalm

Psalm 100

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹**Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.**

²**Serve the Lord with gladness:**

come before his presence with singing.

³**Know ye that the Lord he is God:**

it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:**

be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

⁵**For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;**

and his truth endureth to all generations.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:12-23

¹²Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶Rejoice always,

¹⁷pray continually,

¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel Verse

[Stand]

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
And a light unto my path. You're a light unto my path.**

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

[Sit]

Sermon

***"How Can I Say Thanks?"
"My Tribute" (Andrae Crouch)***

Ellen Hancock

[Stand]

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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

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

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **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

Musical Offering

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
anchored

Thomerson

[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. Creator God, **in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, 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 and salutary. . . *(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

***We Come to the Hungry Feast
When Peace Like a River
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart***

ELW 479

ELW 785

ELW 800

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. Loving Lord, **you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen**

Hymn

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

Commitment Time and Benediction

*Each year at this time, you're asked to prayerfully consider how you will respond to God's blessings for your life by committing of your time, talents and treasures for the support of God's work in the church and in the world. Today as you consider the "**Estimate of Giving**" sheet in your hand, you're asked to record your response on the sheet, place it in the envelope provided and seal it. Then, after putting your name and address in the appropriate place, you're asked to place the envelope in the basket on the altar and say "Amen" as your benediction for today's worship. The envelope will remain unopened and returned to you after the first of the year. Your commitment is between you and the Lord. No one at Hope will see what you have written.*

"Our worship is ended; our service and our witness continue!"

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Today's Heavenly Helpers

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| * Assisting Minister | Carol Townsend |
| * Accompanist | Sarah Harbin |
| * Lector | John Hanson |
| * Greeters | Leon & June Edgemon |
| * Ushers | Steven & Amy Freese |
| * Counters | Sylvia Negri & Steven Freese |

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 124

Calendar of Events for This Week

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | - Knitting & Crochet ministry, 2 PM |
| Tuesday | - Men's Bible Study/Elijah, 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 |

Prayer List

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

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

Old Testament – Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm – Psalm 1

Epistle – Philemon 1-21

Gospel – Luke 14:25-33

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Doris Goplin

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** – Charlie Brown

10:45 **Lector** – Janet Smedley

Greeters – Steven Freese & Jack O'Donovan

Ushers – Leon & June Edgemon

Communion Asst. – Janet Smedley

Counters – Mike Hoover & Eileen Ashley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Returning Thanks Sunday Today

Returning Thanks Sunday has traditionally been the focal point of our stewardship emphasis time here at Hope Church. The past two weeks we have heard from church members about their use of time, talents and treasure. As we give thanks for the wonderful year here at Hope we're completing and look forward to the challenges of the coming year, we take time too to briefly reflect on those blessings and how we respond to them.

At the end of the service today, each family will be asked to fill out an "*Estimate of Giving*" sheet, place it in a self-addressed envelope and place it sealed in the basket on the altar. The next time your envelope will be opened will be after the first of the year when it has been returned to you still sealed.

2025 Annual Report and Annual Meeting

The *2025 Annual Report of the Congregation* will be distributed at the end of this week by email to Hope members. If you do not have email access to the report, printed copies will be available in the narthex next Sunday, September 7th. The document covers ministries and activities of Hope Church this past year and a proposed budget for our next fiscal year, which begins September 1st. Final financial reports for the fiscal year just ending will be available at or just before the Annual Meeting.

The entire report will be presented at our Annual Meeting on September 21st for your approval. Please read through the report and bring any questions to the meeting or ask a Council member or Pastor Dave ahead of time. New Congregation Council members will also be elected at the meeting. We will have one worship service that day, at 10 AM, and the meeting will follow.

Ye Old Funsters Trip

The next *Ye Old Funsters* outing will be this coming Friday, September 5th, to visit the Cherokee Historical Museum in Murphy, NC. The group will leave from the church at 11 AM and eat lunch in Murphy before visiting the museum. If you are interested in making this trip, please let Jack O'Donovan (706-669-1285) or Doris Goplin (404-731-1127) know. They can answer any questions about cost and exact location of the museum and the restaurant.

Ladies Luncheon

The next Ladies of Hope Luncheon will be Saturday, September 13th, at 11:30 AM in Founders Hall. It's going to be a birthday party – for everyone! Please bring a salad or snack to go with hot dogs and dessert, which will be provided. And bring a present! Call Bev Hiscox to RSVP, or if you have questions, at 478-714-7282.

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"*