



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

1st Sunday of Lent

Order of Worship

February 22, 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

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

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. Lord God, our strength, **the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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'll Give You What You Want"

Choral Anthem

Canticle of Hope

Gary Hallquist

The Luther Singers

First Reading

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Psalm

Psalm 32

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹**Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!**

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³**While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.**

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵**Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."**

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12–19

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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



Matthew 4:1–11

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"...You Will Be Like God!"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 504

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.**

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

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW 802

O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW 820

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

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

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!”

* * * * *

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the NRSV Bible, copyright 1989 Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgy from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress; and Lutheran Book of Worship ©1978 admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB161193. Hymns streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-730066. All rights reserved. “Canticle Of Hope” by Gary Hallquist, © 2004 MMIV by Alred Publishing Co., Inc.; “The Peace of God” words adapted from Philippians 4:7-8 and music by Douglas E. Wagner; © 1983, Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.; used by permission of CCLI Streaming License #2735566

Today's Heavenly Helpers

* Assisting Minister	8:15 service	Carol Townsend
	10:45 service	John Hanson
* Director of Music		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	8:15 service	John Kilpatrick
	10:45 service	Sylvia Negri
* Greeters	10:45 service	Ann & Jim Berman
* Ushers	10:45 service	Barbara Fail & Jack O'Donovan
* Communion Asst.	10:45 service	Sylvia Negri
* Counters		Kari Rench & Karen Baker

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 109

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 PM
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
Friday	- Fish Fry, Good Samaritan Catholic Church, 5-7 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm – Psalm 121

Second Reading – Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Gospel – John 3:1-16

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Ann Berman 3/1

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 Lector – Duane Northrup

10:45 Lector – Aaron Engles

Greeters – Sandy & Fred St. John

Ushers – Judy & Rudy Kruger

Communion Asst. – Aaron Engles

Counters – Sylvia Negri & Barbara Mefford

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Beginning this Wednesday, February 25th, and continuing 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*.

Diaper Drive Results

Many thanks for all your generous support of our Annual \$\$ for Diapers Drive to benefit the Safe Choice Pregnancy Center. Over \$1450 was raised to send them to buy diapers.

Friday Fish Fry at Good Samaritan Catholic Church

Just a reminder of the fish fry that the Knights of Columbus put on each Friday of 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!

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



3295 Old Hwy 5 South
Ellijay, GA 30540
Telephone: 706.636.4673 (HOPE)
Email: hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com
Web site: www.hopeonthehill.church

Pastor: Rev. David Smedley
Ministers: The People of Hope Church

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