



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

4th Sunday of Lent

Order of Worship

March 30, 2025

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

ELW 532

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Hymn

Softly and Tenderly

ELW 608

"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

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. God of compassion, **you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

"Lost Dog"

First Lesson

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalms

Psalm 32

(Congregation speaks together.)

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

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

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

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

**⁵Then 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 Lesson

1 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

[Stand]

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



Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

[Sit]

Sermon

"Let the Party Begin"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779

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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

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

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
anchored

Dorsey/Allen

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together. Gracious Provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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

ELW 479

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray together. Generous Host, **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Benediction

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

“I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning when this life is over, I’ll fly away!
To a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away!

**Chorus: I’ll fly away, O Glory, I’ll fly away!
When I die, Hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away!**

When the shadows of this life have grown, I’ll fly away!
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I’ll fly away!

Chorus

Just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away!
To a land where joy shall never end, I’ll fly away!

Chorus

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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

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Prayer List

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

Today's Heavenly Helpers

* Assisting Minister		Ellen Hancock
* Pianist		Sarah Harbin
* Lector		John Hiscox
* Greeters	10:45 service	Steven & Amy Freese
* Ushers	10:45 service	Mike Hoover & Barbara Fail
* Communion Assistant	10:45 service	John Hiscox
* Counters		Eileen Ashley & Karen Baker

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 129

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 noon
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 10 AM-12:30 PM - Service of the Word, noon - Soup & Sandwich supper, 5:30 - Choir Rehearsal, 6 PM - Lenten Vespers service, 7 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM - Co-ed Bible Study, 2 PM
Friday	- Fish Fry, 5-7 PM, Good Samaritan Catholic Church

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

Old Testament – Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms – Psalm 126

Epistle – Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel – John 12:1-8

Mid-Week Altar Guild – Ann Berman

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** - Carole English

10:45 **Lector** - Barbara Fail

Greeters – Leon & June Edgemon

Ushers – Steven & Amy Freese

Communion Asst – Barbara Fail

Counters – Mike Hoover & Amy Freese

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Lenten Services

For two more Wednesdays we will offer a soup and sandwich supper starting at 5:30 PM. Choir will rehearse at 6 PM in the choir room, and the Lenten *Service of Light* will take place in the sanctuary at 7 PM. There will also be a *Service of the Word* at noon each Wednesday.

The complete Lenten schedule is available in the narthex and the newsletter.

Fish Fry at Good Samaritan Catholic Church

As always each year, we look forward to enjoying 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. Dinner prices are \$12 for a regular adult meal, \$14 for a combo of fish and shrimp, \$6 for children. All proceeds support church ministries in our community. Everyone is welcome!

Easter Lilies for the Altar

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex to sponsor an Easter lily for the altar either in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones. The cost for each plant is \$18.00. You can write a check to Hope Lutheran Church with "lily" on the memo line.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week begins on Palm and Passion Sunday, April 13th, with our traditional procession of palms (weather permitting). Holy Week services include a Service of the Word for Healing on Wednesday, a Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar, and a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday with the extinguishing of candles. All evening services will be at 7:00 PM. There will not be supper or a noon service on Wednesday, April 16th.

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



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