

Hope Lutheran Church

Worship Service

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent



Our Vision:

**To be known as a Spirit-led
welcoming community of diversity and service.**

Our Mission:

We care, share, and prepare so that all experience the love of Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles:

Jesus is Lord.

God loves everyone.

All are welcome.

Everyone has a purpose.

Pray before acting.

Step out in faith, believing all is possible.

We are saved by grace.

"Whoever you are who worship here, in whatever household of faith you were born, whatever creed you now profess, whatever your race, nationality, sexual orientation, or condition, if you come to this sanctuary to seek the God in whom you may believe, or rededicate yourself to the God in whom you do believe, you are welcome; for this sanctuary is a house of prayer for all people."

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

Please stand, if able

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God of new beginnings, where there is a need for certainty,

People: cultivate peace in us.

Pastor: Where there is fear,

People: cultivate hope in us.

Pastor: Where there is doubt,

People: cultivate faith in us.

Pastor: In our worship, draw us near to you and one another.

People: Let us worship Holy God.

OPENING HYMN

WOV 771

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Compassionate One,

People: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with You!

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray, Eternal God,

People: your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Jesus Lover of My Soul"

Voices of Hope

READING

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 63

The psalm will be read responsively. The leader will read the light verses and the congregation will read the bold verses.

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

Please stand, if able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them,

“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable:

“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’

⁸He replied,

‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Please stand, if able

Pastor Amy Oehlschlaeger

Pastor Amy Oehlschlaeger

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your
 word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where
 love can grow and peace is un - der - stood. When my heart is hard,
 break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
 When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart,
 Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

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

A brief silence.

Leader: For the United States and the nations of this world, bring collaboration and a shared mission of justice for all. Forge bonds of compassion and care across human borders and boundaries. Lord in your mercy,

People:

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Leader: For all neighbors, whose lives have been disrupted by natural disasters especially in North Carolina and California. Help these communities heal and rebuild. Lord in your mercy,

People: **Lord, listen to your children praying**

Pastor: For all who are facing surgery, bring your comfort. For all who are grieving and for all who are ill in mind, body or spirit especially those we name now... Lord in your mercy,

People: **Lord, listen to your children praying**

Leader: For neighbors without shelter, without food, and without clean water, send helpful communities. For countries torn apart by war, bring peace. Lord in your mercy,

People: **Lord, listen to your children praying**

Leader: We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. Lord in your mercy,

People: **Lord, listen to your children praying**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Please be seated

OFFERING SONG

"For the Fruit of All Creation"



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

OFFERTORY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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." The first staff ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Please stand, if able

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray God of creation, you gave the soil to stand on, the sunlight to grow in, and water to refresh us. In thanks for the multitude of gifts you give us, for community and love, food and life, dreams and hope, bless these signs of our thanks. Use them for your good.

People: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

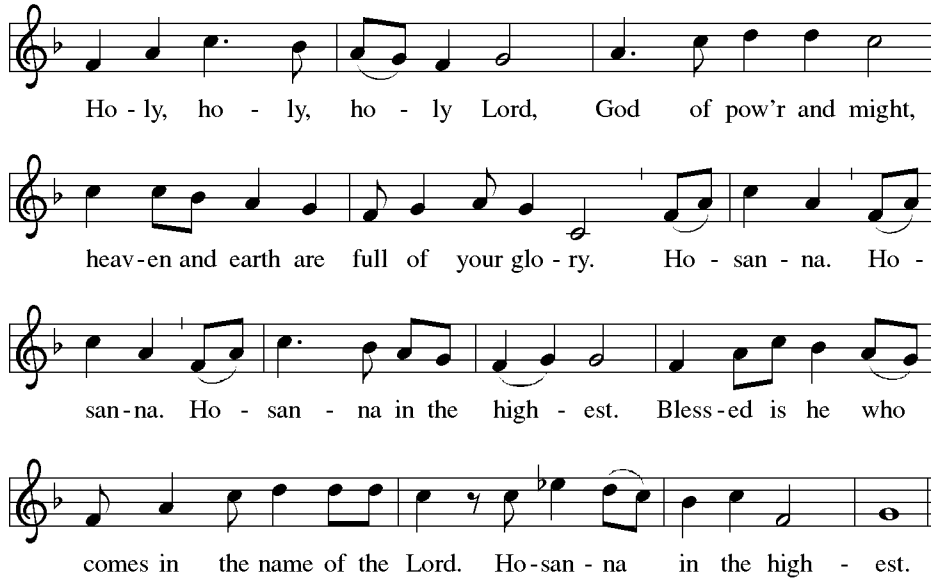
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Please be seated

COMMUNION HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

"Jesus, Remember Me"

(sing 3x)



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Please stand, if able

The Lord's body and blood strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

People: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: 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.

People: **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"



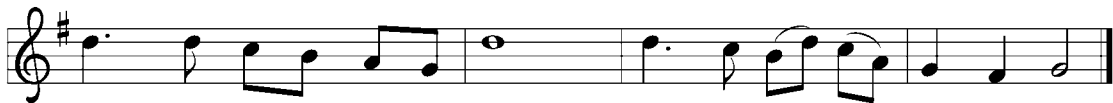
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Pastor: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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