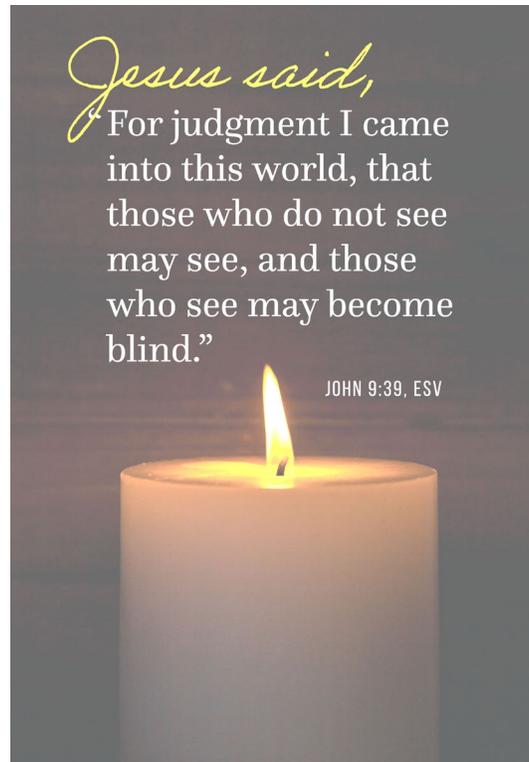


Hope Lutheran Church

Worship Service

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of 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: Precious Lord, open our eyes to see you here

People: Open our ears to hear your word

Pastor: Open our hearts to love you more

People: Open our mouths to sing your praise

Pastor: We will worship you in spirit and truth

People: We will worship you with all we are!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

People: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Gracious God,

People: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loves us. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

People: Amen

OPENING HYMN

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev-er be dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend;



Refrain



but then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.
you can tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl-edge he'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.

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, Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and

People: **come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

SPECIAL MUSIC

Danette Sanders, Jeri Lange

"Amazing Grace" Rebecca and Lydia Silvey

PSALM

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

READING

A reading from Ephesians, chapter 5.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

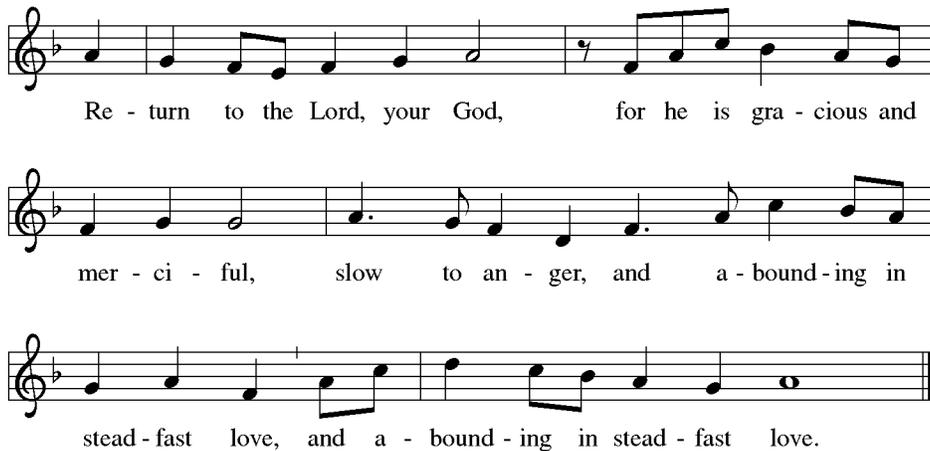
“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 John the 9th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Cast: **Narrator**-Pastor, **Disciple**-congregation, **Jesus**-Reader 2, **Neighbor One**-Men, **Neighbor Two**-Women, **Neighbor Three**-Pastor, **Healed Man**-Reader, **Parent**-everyone

Narrator: As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

Disciple(s): "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Narrator: When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, Jesus: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"

Narrator: Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

Neighbor One: "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

Narrator: Some were saying, Neighbor Two: "It is he."

Narrator: Others were saying,

Neighbor Three: "No, but it is someone like him."

Narrator: He kept saying,

Healed Man: "I am the man."

Narrator: But they kept asking him,

Neighbor One: "Then, how were your eyes opened?"

Healed Man: "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

Neighbor Two: "Where is he?"

Healed Man: "I do not know."

Narrator: They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath 5 6 day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them,

Healed Man: "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, Pharisee Two: "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So, they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

Healed Man: "He is a prophet."

Narrator: The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered,

Parent: "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

Narrator: His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." Healed Man: "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

Healed Man: "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

Narrator: Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

Healed Man: "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and

obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

Narrator: "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?"
And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

Jesus: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Healed Man: "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

Jesus: "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

Healed Man: "Lord, I believe."

Narrator: And he worshipped him. Jesus said,

Jesus: "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

Jesus: "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

SERMON

Pastor

Please stand, if able

HYMN OF THE DAY

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Leader: God, bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God. salvation.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Give your healing presence and comfort to all who are sick especially... Give your presence and love to all our homebound. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: God, our teacher, thank you for the preschool teachers and students. Bless the preschool kids. Awaken their curiosity as they learn and help them to know they are loved. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: God of compassion, help us to see the face of Jesus in our neighbors. Give us and churches everywhere, generous hearts so that those living in poverty may have adequate food, clothing, and shelter. Bless the ministry of Oasis Food Pantry. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great

Leader: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

People: Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING SONG

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

(vs 1 & 2)

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

OFFERTORY

"We Are an Offering"

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

lives up to you: we are an of - fer - ing. Lord, use our voic - es, Lord, use our

hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of - fer - ing.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

lives up to you: we are an of - fer - ing, we are an of - fer - ing.

Please stand, if able

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

People: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: 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: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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

Please be seated

COMMUNION HYMN

"Borning Cry"



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



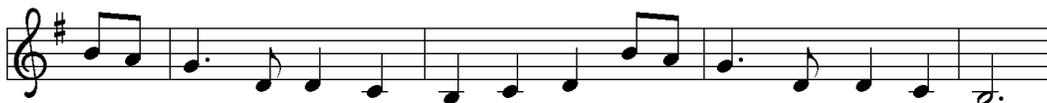
I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

"Jesus Remember Me"



Please stand, if able

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

People: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✝ bless you now and always.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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