



# *Family Promises Fulfilled*

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 2023



# Welcome

## TO HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

In these days of Advent, we are preparing to celebrate the coming of Christ at the first Christmas. At the same time, we ready our hearts for the return of our Lord at the end of time. We thank you for being here at Hope today, and pray that this worship service is a blessing to your heart and soul. Remember that Jesus came for you, and that he is coming again soon!



**WORSHIP CHECK-IN.** Please take a moment to check in online on the homepage of Hope's website ([www.hopelutheranwf.org](http://www.hopelutheranwf.org)). A special welcome to guests and visitors today!

**OFFERINGS & TITHES.** All are invited to make an offering today, as a worshipful expression of thanksgiving to God, and in support of the ministries of Hope Lutheran Church. You may place your gift in the offering plate next to the sanctuary exit doors as you leave. May God bless our offerings and tithes, and bless the ministry which these gifts enable!

### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Devin Murphy  
Margo Adamec

Associate Pastor  
DCE Intern

# Family Promises Fulfilled

Holy Communion: River of Life Setting ~ First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023 ~ 8:30 & 11:00AM

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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & TIME OF GREETING

### INVOCATION

**P:** In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

**P:** 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.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C:** We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.

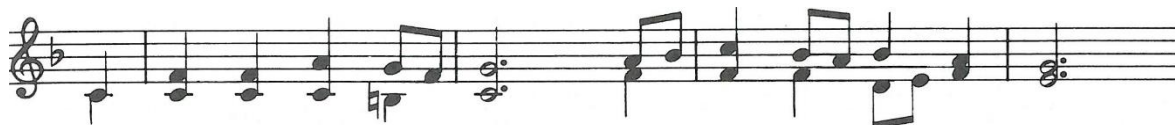
**P:** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.



## HYMN

"The Advent of Our God" (LW12)



1 The ad-vent of our God      Shall be our theme for prayer;  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son      In - car - nate stoops to be,  
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise      To meet your low - ly king,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light,      He soon will come a - gain



Come, let us meet him on the road      And place for him pre - pare.  
Him - self the ser - vant's form puts on      To set his peo - ple free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise      The peace he comes to bring.  
And all his scat - tered saints u - nite      With him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin be put to flight;  
No longer let the law hold sway,  
But walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

## ADVENT KYRIE

**P:** Restore us, O God of hosts.

**C:** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P:** Give us peace and strength in our days.

**C:** Come, Christ Jesus.

**P:** Be present with us, and we shall be saved.

**C:** Come, Lord Jesus, and do not be slow. Amen.

## ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING: THE CANDLE OF HOPE

**R:** God of grace and love, you have sent your Son to this world to make our darkness bright, and to take away our sin.

**C:** Grant us hope, Lord, in all the dark days of this life. Help us now and always to set our eyes on Jesus Christ, the true light of the world.

*(Candle of Hope is lit)*

**R:** "Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord Jesus Christ.

**C:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

# ✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*Congregation is seated*

## ADVENT PROPHECY

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.<sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.<sup>5</sup> You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.<sup>8</sup> But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.<sup>9</sup> Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.


## EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## VERSE FOR ADVENT

“Fling Wide the Door” (LBW32)



The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the notes. The text is: "I Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; The King of glo - ry comes in state; The Lord of lords and King of kings, The Sav - ior of the world who brings His great sal - va - tion to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth And praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word."

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## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:5-23

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. <sup>8</sup>Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup>And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup>And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup>and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” <sup>18</sup>And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” <sup>19</sup>And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you

and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” <sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup> And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup> And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Congregation is seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Children may come to the front.

*Children ages 3 – Grade 2 may leave for Children's Church immediately following the Children's Message by DCE Intern Margo Adamec.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (LBW244)



➤ 1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free.  
➤ 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a Child and yet a King,



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it, Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

## "FAMILY PROMISES FULFILLED" SERMON SERIES

"A Promised Child"  
Pastor Devin Murphy

## ANTHEM (11:00AM)

"People Look East"  
Senior Choir

*Congregation stands*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



# ✠ MEAL ✠

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

**Communion Participation:** As Lutheran Christians, we believe Christ's body and blood are truly present with the bread and wine, offering forgiveness of sins to all who believe in Jesus Christ. We ask those who commune to share this unity of faith in Christ and understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Since the Scripture teaches that we are to examine ourselves before eating of the bread and drinking of the cup (1 Corinthians 11:28), if you are not certain of the meaning of Holy Communion or have not been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith, please speak with the Pastor before communing.

**Communion Distribution Process:** Please form two lines in the main center aisle, proceeding to the altar. After you have received communion, you may return to your pew via the side aisles.



White grape juice is provided in the center of the trays. Individual cups may be placed in the baskets provided by the acolyte. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

**Communion and Children:** First communion is ordinarily offered at Hope to youth after instruction classes in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children and youth who have not been confirmed may come to the altar to receive a blessing. Children and non-confirmed youth should fold their arms over their chest to acknowledge they are receiving the blessing.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P:** 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 in 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

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.

## PEACE

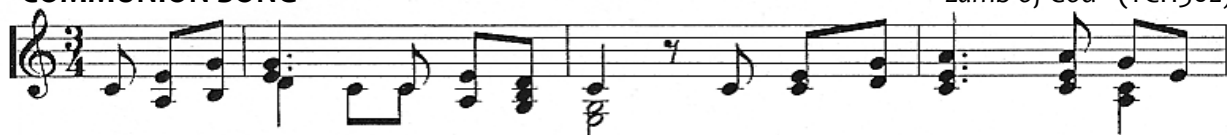
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION SONG

"Lamb of God" (TCH302)



1. Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your  
2. Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and scorned Him as He  
3. I was so lost I should have died, But You have brought me to Your



side To walk up - on this guilt-y sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
died; The hum - ble King they named a fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
side To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

### Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the



ho - ly Lamb of God. O wash me in His pre - cious



blood. 1,2. My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.  
3. Till I am just a lamb of God.

Congregation is seated

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Once He Came in Blessing" (LBW312)



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;  
2 Still he comes with - in us; still his voice would win us  
3 Thus, if you have known him, not a - shamed to own him,  
4 Those who then are loy - al find a wel - come roy - al.



came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;  
from the sins that hurt us; would to truth con - vert us  
nor have spurned him cold - ly, but will trust him bold - ly,  
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



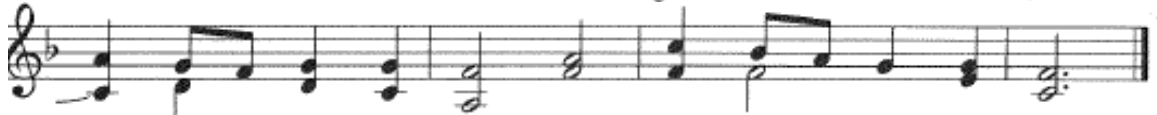
bore the cross to save us; hope and free - dom gave us.  
from our fool - ish er - ror ere he comes in ter - ror.  
he will then re - ceive you, heal you, and for - give you.  
let us here con - fess you, till in heav'n we bless you.



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his glo - rious  
 2 The Fa - ther sends him from his throne To be an in - fant  
 3 With-in an earth-born form he hides His all - cre - at - ing  
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our hu - man



throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
 small And lie here poor - ly man - gered now In  
 light; To serve us all he hum - bly cloaks The  
 frame, And in re - turn gives us his realm, His



give us his own Son, To give us his own Son.  
 this cold, dis - mal stall, In this cold, dis - mal stall.  
 splen - dor of his might, The splen - dor of his might.  
 glo - ry, and his name, His glo - ry, and his name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
 How great a mystery!  
 How strong the tender Christchild's love!  
 No truer friend than he,  
 No truer friend than he.

6 He is the key, and he the door  
 To blessed Paradise;  
 The angel bars the way no more.  
 To God our praises rise,  
 To God our praises rise.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
 Lord Jesus, we adore,  
 And praise to God the Father yield  
 And Spirit evermore;  
 We praise you evermore.

## WORDS OF BLESSING

*Congregation stands*

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P:** God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.

**C:** Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# ✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BENEDICTION

## CLOSING HYMN

*"Come, O Precious Ransom" (LBW24)*



- 1 Come, O pre-cious Ran-som, come, on - ly hope for sin - ful mor - tals!
- 2 En - ter now my wait-ing heart, glo-rious King and Lord most ho - ly.
- 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms gra-cious-ly re-ceive, I pray you;
- 4 Hail! Ho - san - na! Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our sup - pli - ca - tion!



Come, O Sav - ior of the world; o - pen are to you all por - tals.  
Dwell in me and nev - er leave, though I am but poor and low - ly.  
ev - er - more, as best I can, hom-age I will glad - ly pay you,  
Let your king-dom, scep-ter, crown bring us bless-ing and sal - va - tion;



Come, your beau - ty let us view; anx - ious - ly we wait for you.  
What vast rich - es will be mine when you are my guest di - vine!  
and in faith I will em - brace life e - ter - nal by your grace.  
that for - ev - er we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our king!

## DISMISSAL

**P:** The worship is ended.

**C:** The service now begins.

**P:** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Holy Communion Setting Two and selected hymns from Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Selected hymns from Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978 by Augsburg Fortress, Used by permission. Onelicense.net#A701721. Selected hymns from The Celebration Hymnal, © 1997 by Word/Integrity. Used with permission. CCLI License #1223330.



## ✠ NEWS & EVENTS ✠

**SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION: JOHN: THE WORD MADE FLESH.** Join Pastor Mike Lutz this week, from 9:45-10:45AM in Room 301, for our first class on our congregational study on John's Gospel. Pastor Lutz will offer an introduction to the Gospel of John and share some insights from the powerful prologue in 1:1-18. Come and see how John sets up many incredible themes around Jesus and his ministry that make the Gospel of John unique among the four Gospels.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS.** These beautiful seasonal flowers will adorn the chancel at Hope during the Advent and Christmas seasons. They may be purchased in memory or honor of loved ones. Sign up online at [www.hopelutheranwf.org/flowers](http://www.hopelutheranwf.org/flowers). Cost is \$12.50 each with checks payable to Hope, earmarked "poinsettias." The poinsettias may be taken home after the 11:00PM Christmas Eve Service.

**CANTATA.** Next Sunday, 12/10, at the 8:30 & 11:00AM services, the choirs of Hope will present a Christmas Cantata. Holy Communion will not be celebrated at these services, but will be available at the Saturday 5:30PM service on 12/9.

**LIVE NATIVITY.** All are welcome to see a live, in-person presentation of the Bible story of Christ's birth shared on a child-friendly level. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long, Refreshments will be served afterward. Saturday, December 9, 6:45PM; Sunday December 10, 7:00PM.

**KID'S AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES.** For information and sign-up please visit Hope's Website.

- **K-3 GRINCH CHRISTMAS PARTY.** On 12/9, from 3-5:30PM
- **CLUB 45 CHRISTMAS PARTY.** On 12/10 from 5:00-7:00PM
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL.** On 12/10 from 2-4PM

**LITTLE BLESSINGS REGISTRATION** will open for church members on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 8AM. The link will be available on Hope's website under Child Care/ Little Blessings.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION** begins Tuesday, January 16 and will be done online. If you are a member and are interested in enrolling your child for the 2024-2025 school year, please contact the Preschool office at 919-453-0388 or [preschool@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:preschool@hopelutheranwf.org) by January 5. Registration will be done through an email link, so we must have your email in our system before registration begins. More information can be found on our website at [www.hopelutheranwf.org/preschool](http://www.hopelutheranwf.org/preschool).



## Hope's Beginnings: 27 Years Ago

The beloved church that we know and love today first began to take shape in May 1995. At that time, the leadership of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Raleigh and Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cary partnered with the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to purchase the property of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Wake Forest. Gatherings for Bible study and mission planning continued through 1996. Rev. Preston Wagner, then the Southeastern District Executive for Mission and Ministry, was called to be Mission Developer for the Wake Forest Lutheran Mission.

Pastor Wagner began his ministry in October 1996, and was formally installed as Mission Developer/Pastor on December 1, 1996. The first regular church service, with 126 people in attendance, was held on December 8, 1996. The Lutherans shared the stone church at 701 S. Main Street with St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church for seven months.

The Wake Forest Lutheran Mission formally organized and chartered on Pentecost Sunday, May 18, 1997. The name "Hope Lutheran Church" was selected by the 91 communicant and 129 baptized members. In August 1997, the church launched the ministry of Hope Lutheran Preschool with 48 students and six teachers. Regina Fisher began serving as Director of Christian Education and Preschool Director. Pastor Wagner, who had been serving as Mission Developer for the Southeastern District, was officially called as Hope's permanent pastor and was installed at the 1st anniversary service in December 1997. At the end of the first full year of ministry, Hope had 139 communicant and 206 baptized members. Average worship attendance for the year was 116.



From these humble beginnings, God has made amazing things happen through our church. The congregation moved to its present location in 2003, building a preschool and multi-use facility. As the congregation continued to grow, the people of Hope embarked on a major facility expansion that includes our current sanctuary, adult education center, youth center, and administrative offices.

This year, in 2023, we are celebrating 27 years of Christ-centered ministry in the Wake Forest community. Hope Lutheran Church has been abundantly blessed in countless ways. Our church has grown with its community, and we are privileged to witness God's hand at work in the lives of his people. Hope's diverse worship services, stimulating adult education classes, and hands-on ministry events are helping build strong lives of faith for disciples of all ages. Our outstanding preschool, children, and youth ministries provide a family-friendly, Christ-centered environment, and help keep our congregation young and vital. Hope is blessed with many volunteers that joyfully "proclaim and live the Word and love of Christ" to people in our community.

Our church was founded with a mission vision, and that vision remains alive and well today. The ministry of Hope extends beyond our walls, as the people of Hope are sent forth into God's mission fields week after week. Even as we celebrate our past today, may the people of Hope joyfully recommit themselves to doing God's work in our community for many years to come!

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

