

Welcome to Hope!

A warm greeting to you today! It's a pleasure to welcome you to Hope Lutheran Church for this hour of worship. Today we come into the presence of our holy God together. We come with humility, aware of our own shortcomings and sin. We come with eagerness, ready to receive his gifts of grace. A special welcome to guests and visitors today. Take a moment to introduce yourself to one of the pastors, and let us know if we can be of any help to you.

INFORMATION

WORSHIP CHECK-IN. Please take a moment to check in online on the homepage of Hope's website (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!

SERVICE INFORMATION

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Mike Lutz

Retired Pastor

Beth Agner

Lead Director of Christian Education

COVER ART by Elizabeth Ames

First Sunday After Christmas

Holy Communion: Liturgy of Joy
December 31, 2023 ~ 8:30 and 11:00AM Services

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & TIME OF GREETING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Gracious God,

C: We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

C: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

P: Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

C: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

P: Before God we are holy and righteous, free to worship without fear.

C: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

P: With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet onto the way of peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (LBW71)



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
- 3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



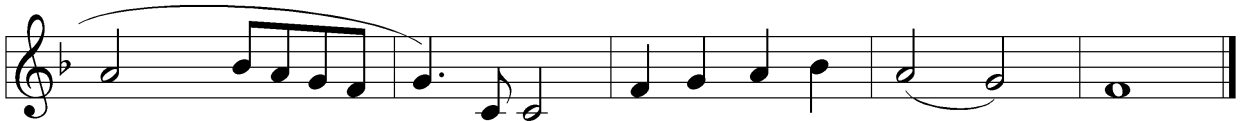
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Glory to God"



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



G Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature.

C: In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ The Service Of The Word ✠

Congregation is seated

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

⁶² For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

EPISTLE LESSON

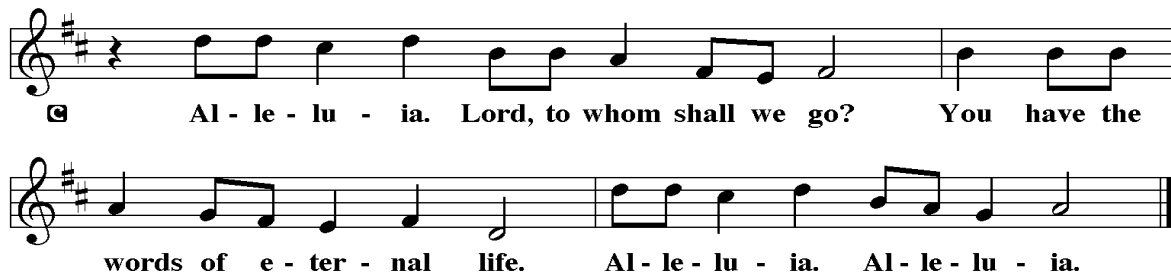
Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Congregation stands

ALLELUIA VERSE

"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

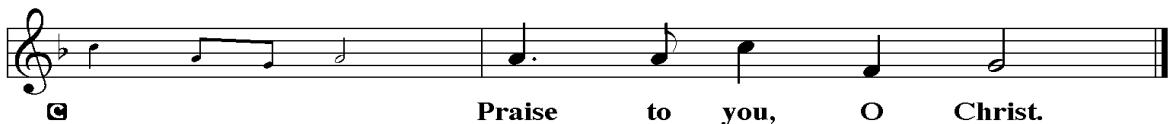
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.



And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

** "universal" (original wording of the Creed; portraying God's perspective that the whole of God's people on earth are truly one In Christ)*

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 Lead DCE Beth Agner.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (LBW70)



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

SERMON

"God Blesses You"
Pastor Mike Lutz

Congregation stands

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.

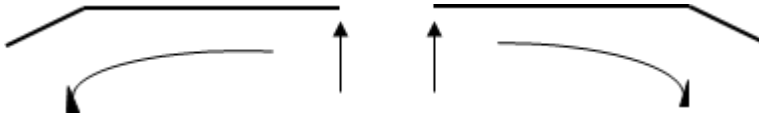
P: Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

✠ The Service Of Holy Communion ✠

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 5th 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.

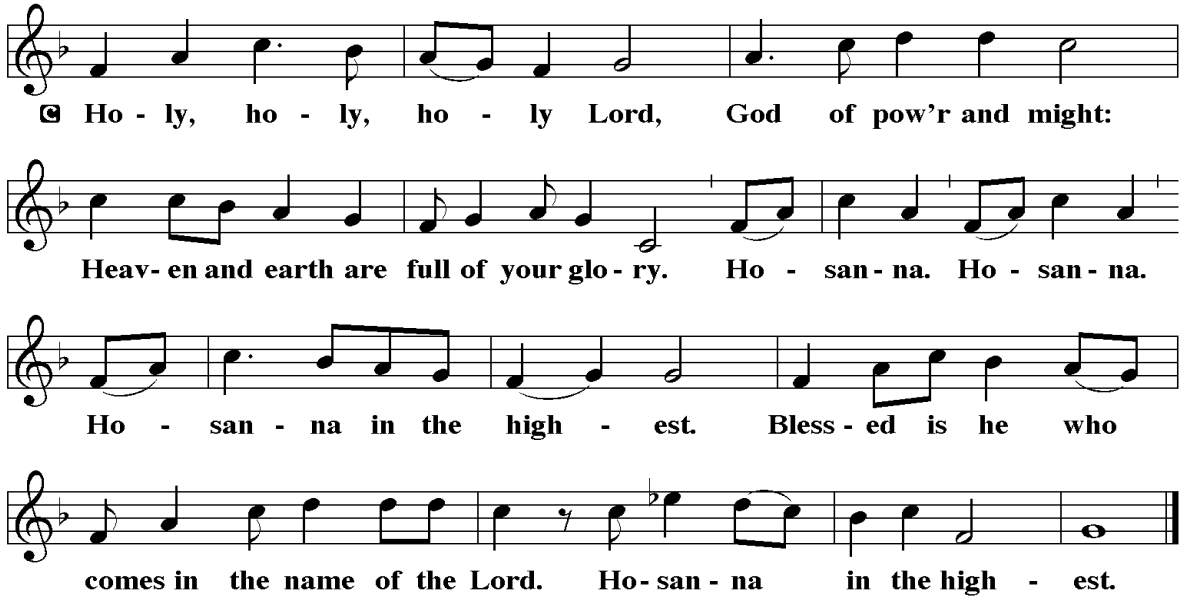
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is truly good and right that we should offer thanks and praise to you, Lord God, eternal Father. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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.

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 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.

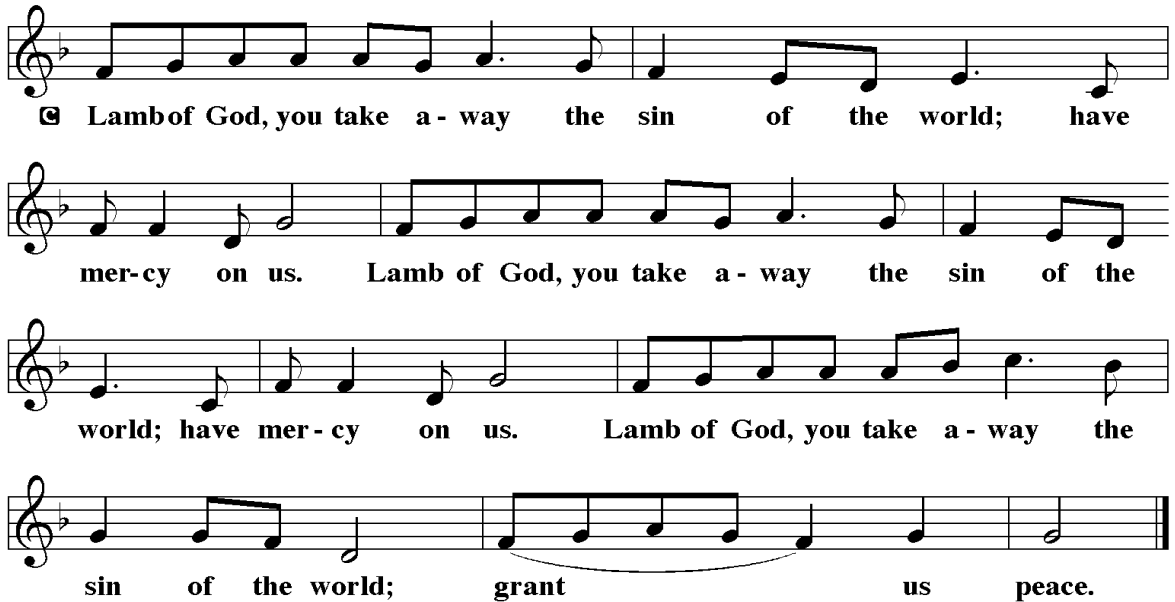
SHARING OF PEACE

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.

AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God)

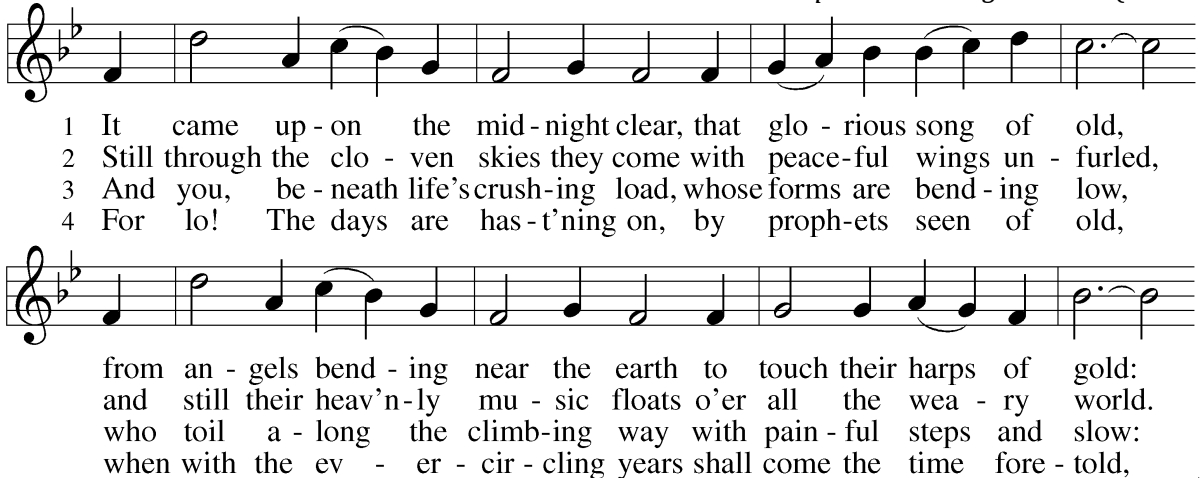


☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Congregation is seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (LBW54)



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,





“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ’ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (LBW55)



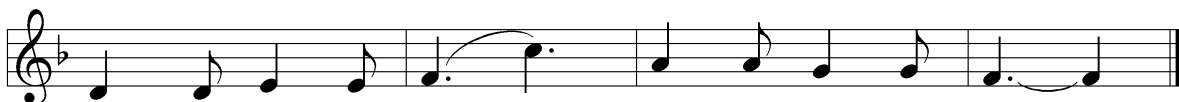
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en’s door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WORDS OF BLESSING

Congregation stands

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Holy God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal have feasted on your grace.

C: May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (TCH285)



1. I heard the bells on Christ-mas day Their old fa - mil - iar car - ols play,
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel-fries of all Chris-ten-dom
3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
5. Then ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The world re - volved from night to day-



And wild and sweet the words re - peat Of peace on earth, good - will to men.
Had rolled a - long th'un - bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good - will to men.
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good - will to men."
The wrong shall fail, the right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good - will to men."
A voice, a chime, a chant sub - lime Of peace on earth, good - will to men!

CHRISTMAS DISMISSAL

P: Christ, the Savior, is born!

C: Joy to the world!

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Holy Communion Setting One and Hymns from Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license 2570-L. 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 & Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL STUDY. Beginning in earnest on January 7th and continuing through February 7th the congregation is invited to explore the first 12 chapters of John's Gospel. Our sermons, Sunday morning Bible studies, WNA evening studies, and home studies will walk verse-by-verse to help us see how the Logos descended from heaven, became a human being named Jesus, and brought us true knowledge of his Father in heaven. Hear the last testimony of the last of the Apostles as he shares what we need to strengthen our faith in Christ. Home study materials will be available at www.hopelutheranwf.org/adulted each week. Don't miss this opportunity to dive into John's powerful Gospel of Jesus.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY. Hope members, join us on Sunday, January 21 at 1:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Stay informed and vote on key issues.

MISSION FAIR. Hope will be holding our Mission Fair on January 21. Everyone will get the chance to talk and ask questions to individual mission leaders about their missions, near and far. Come learn all the ways you can be involved in spreading the love of Jesus in our community and beyond. There are opportunities for all to serve!

SCAMS. Every so often, members of Hope receive emails that claim to be from one of Hope's pastors, asking for emergency financial help for people in need. Please be aware that the pastors will never send these emails, as the church has emergency funds available. These emails are always the work of scammers and are most definitely not legitimate.

FLORAL TEAM. Members of the floral team create the altar flower arrangements seen in the sanctuary every week, and in doing so, give back a gift of beauty to the One who created us. Flowers are just so refreshing and beautiful. To know God has given us so many varieties to choose from is simply divine. The members of this team work in pairs and support each other with flower purchasing, arranging, and substituting during scheduling challenges. If you feel called to join this ministry or are simply interested in learning more about the floral team, please contact Dottie Reading at dottiereading@yahoo.com. No prior experience or training is required—veteran team members will show you everything you need to know about the process!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION for church members 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 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.

PRESCHOOL JAM: SNOW PARTY. Mark your calendars for 1/19 from 10:00-11:30AM for Hope's second annual snow party! Come join the fun with all things snow-related. Snow sensory bins, snow crafts, and of course a snowball fight. Parents enjoy our coffee connection hour with a coffee bar as your kids are connecting with each other. Cost: \$5 Questions: Beth Agner bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

LEVEL 23 BALLOON BASH. Come to Level 23's balloon bash on 1/16 from 6:00PM-8:00PM. Join us for balloon activities and a fun-filled night of fellowship. Sign up on Hope's website. Cost: \$5 Questions: Beth Agner bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER WONDERLAND PARTY. Come join us on 1/21 at 3:30PM for a fun afternoon of winter-themed snacks and games. We will have a snowball fight, build igloos, and have fun "walking in a winter wonderland." Cost will be \$5. Sign up on the website. See y'all there. Questions? madamec@hopelutheranwf.org

HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT OF LIGHTS. High School Youth are taking a trip to the NC Chinese Lantern Festival. Come experience a night of lights like none other. On 1/14 meet at the Youth Center at 5:00PM. Cost is \$17. Sign up today!

BREW COLLEGE AGE. we will be meeting on 1/11 and 1/25. Both meetings will take place at Village Deli in The Factory. We will be starting a series over the *Sermon on the Mount* this month. Questions? madamec@hopelutheranwf.org or 832 451 5441.

BREW YOUNG PROFESSIONALS. We will be meeting on 1/18 this month. Join us at Norse Brewing in downtown Wake Forest, NC at 7PM for a night of fellowship and Bible study. We will be starting a series over *Jonah* this month.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WISE MAN. Calling all men 18 and over. Hope's Men's Ministry is excited to host a multi-congregational Men's Summit 1/20, 10AM-Noon. The Southeastern District's President, Bill Harmon will present on *What it means to be a Wise Man*. Along with presenting amazing opportunities within our district as well as highlighting how your church synod is serving the eastern states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C, Delaware, and both of the Carolinas. A brunch will be served during this presentation as well as opportunities for discussion, break out, and questions about our church district body. Sign-up on Hope's website. The cost of this event is \$10 per person. Please bring cash or a check on the day of the event.