

John

The Word Made Flesh



Welcome to Hope!

We are delighted to welcome one and all to our church today! We gather from all walks of life, and we are an assembly of many different ages, life experiences, and backgrounds. Yet every one of us has the same inner need. We are God's creatures, and our spirits need to be in unity with our Lord. Today we focus on the Word of God from St. John's Gospel, and we rejoice at the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. As the Lord's people, we rejoice to be here together with you on this day. Welcome to Hope!

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

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by John & Elaine Willers in honor of their 57th wedding anniversary.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Wayne Puls

Senior Pastor

Rev. Devin Murphy

Associate Pastor

John: The Word Made Flesh

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion: River of Life Setting

February 4, 2024 ~ 8:30 & 11:00AM Services

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & TIME OF GREETING

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. We are reluctant to ask, reluctant to trust, reluctant to do what you propose. We are helpless to free ourselves. We beg your mercy for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: He who is coming has come! His birth among us brings us light; his death for our transgressions brings us life. For Jesus' sake our sins are forgiven!

C: May God's grace bring us to the obedience of faith. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN

"Blessed Assurance" (WOV 699)



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

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

“This Is The Feast”



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



B Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.

C: **Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

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

Congregation is seated

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; ²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Congregation stands

ALLELUIA VERSE

“Celtic Alleluia” (WOV613)



Congregation stands

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-21

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” ¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

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 Pastor Wayne.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth" (WOV716)



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
loose our tongues to tell your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, heal the world, by our sin bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

CHORAL ANTHEM (11:00AM)

“To Be Your Song”
Senior Choir

Congregation stands

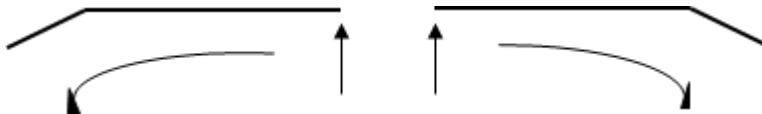
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ 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 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.

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

"Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place" (TCH219)

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this
place; I can feel His might - y pow - er and His
grace. I can hear the brush of
an - gel's wings; I see glo - ry on each face.
Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

Repeat

Congregation is seated

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"O Jesus, I Have Promised" (LBW203)



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" (LBW343)



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 with your
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on



pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 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.

WORDS OF BLESSING

Congregation stands

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise you for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Send your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“To God Be the Glory” (TCH56)



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done;
2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,



so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
to ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
the vil - est of - fend - er by grace may be - lieve,
but pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceive.
our won - der, our vic - t'ry, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the Son,



and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done.

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



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✠ *News & Events* ✠

CONGREGATIONAL STUDY. Through February 7, the congregation is invited to explore the first 12 chapters of John's Gospel. Our sermons, Sunday morning Bible studies, Wednesday 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:45-10:45AM)

- **KIDS:** See signs in the Narthex and Children's Center Foyer.
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL:** God's Love for Us in Room 101
- **HIGH SCHOOL:** John in Room 102
- **ADULT:** John: The Word Made Flesh in room 301

SUPER BOWL CHILI SALE. The Men of Hope are back again with their famous Chili Sale. Come by February 10-11 before and after services. The group will be selling three types of chili: a mild beef, vegetable, and white chicken. The cost is \$8 a quart. The Men of Hope prepare and cook the chili Saturday morning using the freshest ingredients, yielding a hearty and healthy meal. Please plan to buy a couple of quarts and have something great for your Super Bowl viewing (or freeze for a later meal). All proceeds go towards the Men of Hope's funding for new chairs and tables for the Children's Center.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE. Join us for our last night of fun, food, and fellowship. Dinner this week will be: chicken Tetrizzini, Salad, Desert. Classes for all ages will be 6:30-7:30PM. Don't miss out.

PINE STRAW SALE. Are your landscape beds in need of a freshening up? Hope youth attending the summer mission trip are selling bales of fresh, premium pine straw for \$6/bale, with free delivery for orders of more than 20 bales. You can order at the table after services February 4 and 11 or online on Hope's website. Bales will be delivered or available for pick-up Saturday, March 2. Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER. Come on out on February 13, from 5:30-7PM, and get all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, and bacon. Men of Hope will be cooking plain, chocolate chip, and blueberry pancakes. Gluten free pancakes available on request. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and youth, children under 5 free. There is a maximum charge of \$24 for a family. Proceeds will go for new tables and chairs for the Children's Center.

LITTLE BLESSINGS. Parent's Morning Out Program (ages 0-2) registration for church members and currently enrolled families is on Monday, February 19, 2024, and will be done online. Any church members interested in enrolling your child for the Little Blessings 2024-2025 session, please contact Tracy Zwickis at littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org for instructions.

EXTENDED CARE PRESCHOOL TEACHER. Hope Lutheran Preschool is a Christ-centered preschool looking for an enthusiastic, energetic Extended Care Teacher who loves working with children ages 4-5 years old. Experience working with children is required. Hours for this position are Monday through Friday, 11:30AM to 5:15PM. The position is available now. Please send your resume or inquire to Regina Fisher, Preschool Director, at rfisher@hopelutheranwf.org.

NEW MEMBER CLASS. If you have been worshipping at Hope, it's time to consider officially joining our congregation! Making a commitment to become a church member is a big step, but it is a great way to solidify your spiritual beliefs and to invest in a spiritual home for your life. Learn more about Lutheran teachings and practices, and about the ministries and mission of Hope Lutheran Church, at our eight-week Spring New Member Class. The class meets on Sunday mornings, March 3- April 28 (except Easter) 9:45-10:45AM, Room 300. Contact Pastor Wayne or Pastor Devin for details.

BLOOD DRIVE. Hope will be hosting a blood drive on 2/17, from 11:30AM- 4:30PM. The Blood Connection bus will be parked outside the Youth Center. Along with the lifesaving gift of blood that your donation will provide, you will receive a \$25 gift card as well as a \$25 donation made to TWOLA, a mental health organization, in honor of Jeremy Moran. Please come out if you can and pass the word to your friends and family.

MIDDLE SCHOOL. You're invited to the 6-8 Grade Southeastern District Youth Gathering (DYG) on April 12-14 in Williamsburg, Virginia! What is the DYG? It's an incredible opportunity for Jr. High Youth to gather in the name of Jesus to worship, pray, play, serve, and learn together with youth from all over the East Coast! Cost is \$230 and includes transportation, SED registration fees, hotel accommodation, meals and a gathering T-Shirt. Last day to sign up is 2/26. Scholarships are available. Not included in price is the Friday Dinner. Bring cash for this dinner on the drive to Williamsburg. Questions? madamec@hopelutheranwf.org.

WINTER TREK MARCH. High School youth are invited for a weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth as we trek up to Camp Willow Springs. We will be doing fun activities that the camp has to offer as well as other games and devotions throughout the weekend. Cost is \$125 per person and includes 3 meals on Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday. We will depart from Hope on Friday, March 8 and return on Sunday, March 10. Last day to sign up is February 11. Scholarships are available upon request and need. All payments must be made via check or cash. Questions? 818-642-7570.

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE SUNDAY. High School Youth are invited to come serve at Cadence Assisted Living at Wake Forest on Sunday, February 25. Youth will meet in the parking lot at 1:50PM. We will then lead a group bingo and game event for the seniors who live on-site. We will end at 3:30PM. Text DCE Wesley Spottiswood to sign-up (818-642-7570).

BREW COLLEGE AGE. This month we will be meeting on 2/8 and 2/22 at 6:30PM. Both meetings will be at Margo's apartment. We will be continuing to finish our series on the Sermon on the Mount. Questions? madamec@hopelutheranwf.org.

2024 MEN'S RETREAT. Ready for a weekend of good food, relaxation, sports, bonding, and Christian brotherhood? All men, 18 years and older, are invited March 15-17, 2024 to Camp Cheerio's Mountain Lodge for the 2024 Men's Retreat. Cost is \$210 a person and includes 2 nights' lodging and meals (Friday dinner - Sunday breakfast). The last day to register is March 5. Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY. The next cleanup will be Saturday, February 10, arrive at 8:45AM. We will meet at the church, then go to the cleanup area. Please wear long pants and long sleeves, and bright colors are encouraged. An orange vest and gloves will be provided. Youth 12 and older can participate if parents sign an NCDOT waiver form. Contact Andrew DiGiovanni at lizcitypirate@hotmail.com for more information.