



First Holy Communion

February 4, 2024

Welcome to Hope!

As we celebrate First Holy Communion in the lives of 33 youth from our congregation, we are happy to welcome their families and friends today. This occasion is a spiritual milestone for these young Christians, and we are delighted that you are here to join in the celebration. We rejoice at the promise of Christ, as he shares his presence with us in the Word and Sacrament.

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!

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Wayne Puls	Senior Pastor
Rev. Devin Murphy	Associate Pastor
Beth Agner	Lead DCE
Wesley Spottiswood	DCE
Margo Adamec	DCE Intern

First Holy Communion

Celebration Service

February 4, 2024 ~ 2:30 PM

✠ Gathering ✠

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & TIME OF GREETING

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

(Psalm 124:8)

P: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. *(Psalm 130: 3-4)*

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together, as his people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking his grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Heavenly Father, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”(LBW 448)



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

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. Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation we come to your table to eat and drink your holy body and blood.

C: Let us find favor in your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of our souls and to the glory of your holy name; for you live and reign with the Father 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

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 10:15-25

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” ¹⁷then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹Therefore,

brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Congregation stands

ALLELUIA VERSE

“Celtic Alleluia” (WOV613)



Congregation stands

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 14:12-26

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³ And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” ¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” ¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?” ²⁰ He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less" (LBW293)



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous - ness a-lone, re-deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

SERMON

"The Journey"

Pastor Wayne Puls

Congregation stands

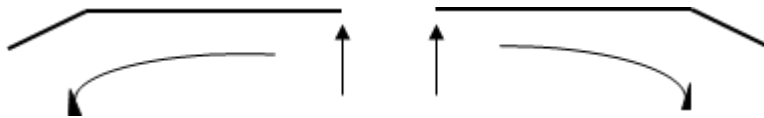
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ 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.

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, grant us peace.

Congregation is seated

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (LBW212)



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



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

Refrain



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



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



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known:
 2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty



in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.
 with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:
 and teach us how to find the love from self set free;



Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as
 our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -
 in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by



sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.
 hold your face and know - ing you may grow in grace.
 this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

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

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" (LBW551)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

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

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.

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.

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.