



December 14, 2025
9am Service
Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Piano Duets

Kathryn Hardie and Donna Benrud

Welcome & Announcements

Our Mission Statement:

As God's people, abounding in HOPE and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to share in the unfolding experience of Jesus Christ.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. +You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

#264

1. Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
2. God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
3. Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
4. His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Greeting

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Wiese Family

3. Come, Lord Jesus, we are telling, Be our Guest this Advent day.
Joyful voices sing in praise of Jesus, who brings us joy.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

Away in a Manger

Bells of Hope

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

When the reading is completed, please respond:

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,
Alleluia. Alleluia.

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Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

When the reading is completed, please respond:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“God’s Christmas Gifts”

Children & Youth of Hope

Scene 1: Welcome, the Gift of Hope
Scene 2: The Manger, the Gift of Joy
Scene 3: Shepherds in the field, the Gift of Peace
Scene 4: Wise People, the Gift of Love
Scene 5: Celebrate God's Great Gifts!

Hymn of the Day

Joy to the World

#267

1. (Program Participants) Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. (Everyone!) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven he is

seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers for the People

Prayer Petitions will end with “Lord in your Mercy”

Prayer response is **“Hear Our Prayer”**

Sharing God’s Peace & Noisy Offering

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Offertory

Create In Me a Clean Heart

#186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offering Prayer

Meal

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion and Distribution

All are welcome to receive the sacrament. If you are unable to handle the elements, require gluten free, or would prefer grape juice, please tell the server. If you are unable to come forward, please inform an usher and you will be served in your pew.

Distribution Music

Lamb of God

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Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Vss. 1-5, 8)

#257

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, oh Wisdom from on high embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

3. O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*
4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
5. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
8. O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile
here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Post Communion Prayer

Sending

Blessing of Pastoral Partners

Benediction

Closing Hymn

He Came Down

#253

1. He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forever more.
2. He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forever more.
3. He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forever more.
4. He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forever more

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God**

Worship Leaders

Ministers	The People of Hope Lutheran Church
Presiding Pastor	Pastor Melinda Halom
Assistant Liturgist	Joan Moe
Reader	Bethany Strand
Greeters	Joanne and Butch Martin
Ushers	Jean and Jim Wold
Communion Assistants	Rachel Strand, Judy and Cory Tilleson, Alice Bates
Worship/Music Director	Jim Newman
Organist/Pianist	Donna Benrud

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Thank you for Worshiping at Hope Lutheran Church
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