



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Hope Lutheran Church Worship Service

February 1st , 2026 10:00 a.m.

Live streaming on Facebook at **HopeLutheranChurchCbus**

Zoom info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87022443010?pwd=Vb20CctLVvbwCWNabXQoU9d1ebbgip.1>

Meeting ID: 870 2244 3010

Passcode: 681468

Tel: +1-309-205-3325

WELCOME

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

OFFERING LIBATIONS TO THE ANCESTORS

Libation rituals unite us across the millennium with all that God has created. We honor the people we are because of those that have come before us and hope for those to come. The plant signifies our connection with the earth and all that comes from the earth. Water signifies the life giving value of its properties and reminds us of our baptism. Our petitions today begin our journey of reflections that relate to African American History and giving honor to those that have contributed to the evolution and celebration of who we are today. After each petition, you will be prompted to reply "Ashe" by the phrase "And let the church say..." Ashe is equivalent to "Amen".

OPENING HYMN **Sweet Sweet Spirit** (TFF 102) *Elizabeth Washington*
Please turn to 102 of your TFF hymnal.

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 **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, v.1** (ELW 836) *Shirley Huber*
 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Holy God,

C: You confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." "With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **My Faith Looks Up to Thee, v.1** (ELW 759) *Regina Duffy*

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this be wholly thine!

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUNG PEOPLE SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Peace Like a River (TFF 194) *Nancy Cofer*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



Refrain
 It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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 OF THE CHURCH

A: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

WE SHARE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANKOFFERING**QUIET TIME****OFFERTORY**

Amazing Grace, v.1-3

(ELW 779)

Ernest Watts

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound– that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;

‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of majesty,

C: No eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

SANCTUS **Holy, Holy, Holy** *(TFF pg. 38)*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of power and might.
 Heaven and Earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

COMMUNION HYMNS **Wade in The Water** *(TFF 114)* *Alfrieda Watts*
We are Marching *(TFF 63)* *Beverly Chavis*

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

CANTICLE **Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise** *(TFF pg. 41)*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name
 Send us with your promises O God;
 and lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving, with shouts of thanksgiving,
 With shouts of thanksgiving, Alleluia

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Radiant God,
C: We have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

SENDING SONG **Lift Every Voice and Sing** *(TFF 296)* *Michel and Susan Leonhart*
Please turn to 296 of your TFF hymnal.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

(ELW 504)

Don Huber

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Worship Participants This Week

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Julianne Smeck

Ministers: All worshippers

Bassist: Dan Abell **Guitar:** Kurt Keljo **Drummer:** Seth Daily

Pianist: Caitlyn Couch

Reader: Susan Leonhart

Worship Assistant: Janet Ligon

Acolyte: Arianna Fentress

Usher: Florine Castleman

Worship Leaders Next Sunday

Reader: Matt Hazzard

Worship Assistant: Beverly Chavis

Acolyte: Aubrey Fentress

Usher: Kim Fedrick

Phone Numbers

Pr. Smeck: cell 734.972.6126

Hope Office: 614.258.6634

PRAAYER REQUESTS Sarah Stone and Ron Bailey, Nancy Cofer, Peter Elencovf, Kurt Keljo and his sister Karen, Muriel Scruggs, Michel Leonhart, Grace Winfrey, Karen Davis, Travis Davis, Morris Scruggs, Billy Gillyard, Judy Smeck, Francene Travis, Monica Price

BIRTHDAYS: Kathy Halsey (2nd)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Welcome to this special month of celebration! Our theme is

“Connecting the Past to the Present”. Today we honor Hope’s elders. We also honor the ancestors with an offering of libations at the beginning of worship. After the worship service, we will have coffee hours with additional activities. Next week, Dr. Denise Rector will talk about the importance of former Hope pastor Rev. Earlean Miller. The third week will feature Black History Bingo. Rev. Dale Linder will preach on the final Sunday. The celebration will conclude with our traditional potluck. Finally, there will be great displays in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to attend every week — and invite friends!

BIBLE STUDY

Held on Wednesday at 6:30 PM!

THE PASTOR’S SABBATH is on Thursday and Friday each week.

PROPERTY CONCERNS You can now communicate property issues via email (hopelutheranchurchproperty@gmail.com), the committee has decided one chairperson isn't necessary. This is a strong team, and they will respond quickly.

CALENDAR

February 18 - Ash Wednesday, 7:00 PM

GIVE WITH THE VENMO APP

To give offerings and tithes via Venmo:

- *Download the Venmo app
- *Set up bank account info, or debit card info
- *Touch "Pay" or "Request" at the bottom
- *Enter the church cell phone number. (614) 907-3869
- *Church user name — **@HopeLilley-820**
- *Enter offering amount

Note: When setting up an account, select "Private" mode for transactions.



Offerings @ 1/25/26

Received: \$8,250

Anticipated: \$10,873

Over / (Short): **(\$2,623)**

Cap Imp: \$1,153