

Gathering Song “Keep Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning, See What My Lord Has Done” **Screen**

Welcome & Announcements

Reflection on the Present Hope

Advent Litany (Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36)

Keep awake. Stay alert. The kingdom of God is near.

We are God’s partners in hope.

The days are surely coming when God will fulfill the promise.

We are God’s partners in hope.

A righteous branch will spring up and will bring forth justice.

We are God’s partners in hope.

Stand up. Raise your hands. Your redemption is drawing near.

We are God’s partners in hope.

As we light this first Advent candle, the candle of hope, may we be partners in hope, witnesses to the promise that hope is coming— it is being born into the world.

Amen.

Lighting the Hope Candle

Song “This Fire” **Screen**

First Lesson Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Special Music “Carol For Advent” **Hope’s Worship Choir**

Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:16–22 (*sung*)

Gospel Verse “This Fire” **Screen**

Gospel John 1:6–8, 19–28

Sermon **Pastor Steve Thompson**

Affirmation of Faith “I Believe in a God” **Screen**

Prayers of Intercession

Offering “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” **ELW # 596**

Holy Communion “Great Thanks/ Holy! Holy! Holy!” **Screen**

Words of Institution “Love That Sets You Free” **Screen**
“Lord’s Prayer” **Screen**

Holy Communion Come with hope to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

Communion Songs **ELW # 264, 254, 253**

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come.

Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending Song “Let the Love Light Shine” **Screen**

“Go Tell it On the Mountain” **Screen**

Worship Notes

Welcome Visitors! Please sign the guest book, located at the church entrance. Please feel free to take a visitor packet home with you.

All are welcome to the Lord’s Table We believe that Christ is present in the Sacrament, renewing God’s promise of forgiveness and eternal life.

*Please place the hymnals in the racks in back of the pews, following worship.
No food or beverages in the sanctuary, Please.*

The Week Ahead. . .

Monday	6:30pm 7:00pm	Knitters Council Mtg.
Tuesday	5:00pm 7:00pm	CoDA AA
Wednesday	12:00pm 6:00pm 6:45pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Library Pot-luck Supper Advent Prayer Service Hope’s Worship Choir
Thursday	8:00pm	AA
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	8:30am 9:00am 4:30pm	Coffee Fellowship Christmas Eve Worship Christmas Eve Worship

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 1-7

The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of his grace — a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies — and to comfort all who mourn, to care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, Messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by God to display his glory.

They'll rebuild the old ruins, raise a new city out of the wreckage. They'll start over on the ruined cities, take the rubble left behind and make it new. You'll hire outsiders to herd your flocks and foreigners to work your fields, but you'll have the title "Priests of God," honored as ministers of our God. You'll feast on the bounty of nations, you'll bask in their glory. Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, Your inheritance in the land will be doubled and your joy go on forever.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16–22

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

Rejoice evermore for this is the will of God (3x) in Christ Jesus concerning you.
Pray without ceasing for this is the will of God (3x) in Christ Jesus concerning you
Give thanks for what is good, for this is the will of God (3x)...
Quench not the Spirit...
Despise not prophesying...
Prove all things...
Hold fast to what is good...
Abstain for every evil...

Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

"Rejoice evermore," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah makes it clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.



Hope Lutheran Church

9:00 Worship 10:30 KOK program

Pastor: Steve Thompson

Coordinator of Shared Ministry: Sarah Gavert

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Council President: Curt Wicklund

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We are a community hope inviting all people into God's transformative embrace of love for the world through Jesus Christ