

Hope Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor

Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director

Joyce Dubach, Organist

November 26, 2025

Thanksgiving



Introduction to the day

God's word, proclaimed and reflected upon, and the prayer it calls forth from those gathered, are the heart of this service, which is prepared especially for contemplative settings. The Holy Spirit, who knows our needs, prays with and through us, and when we have no words, for us. Silence makes room to breathe deeply, time to still the heart and quiet restless thoughts, and, a place to listen and rest in the presence of God, "like a child upon its mother's breast" (Psalm 131:2). Some times of silence will last no longer than a deep breath; some will be more spacious. A handbell or singing bowl may be rung to mark them. Before worship begins, keeping silence or listening to meditative music invites the community into the unhurried pace of prayer.

Food pantry need: cereal and soup
Attendance for November 23, 2025 -

PRELUDE

please stand if you are able.

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.*

OPENING

Gathering Litany

Blessed be God, the eternal ? One-in-Three,
who was, and is, and is to come.

Blessed be God forever and ever.

During a season of busyness and in a culture that demands immediate response,

we pause and wait for your appearing.

In the midst of anxiety, chaos, and fear,

we pause and trust that your hand is leading us.

Uncertain about the future and weighed down with worries in the present,

we pause and know your presence fully.

Come, O Christ, and set us free.

Come, Emmanuel, bring in your reign of justice and peace.

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth,

where righteousness is at home.

Prayer

O God, eternal and unchanging, you are the source and center of all life.

Help us to cease our constant hurry and hustle, worry and anxiety, that we may rest in you. Teach us patience and endurance as we wait for the appearing of Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

Amen.

SILENCE

SONG

Praise and Thanksgiving

(ELW 689)

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection, and song.

The word of God is proclaimed and we reflect upon it, letting the word “dwell in us richly” (Colossians 3:16). Scripture reading is surrounded by silence, communal song, psalmody, and other readings, reflections, or actions that illumine the word. These may follow one after another or may be woven into a meditative whole.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹ “When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

SILENCE

PSALM: Psalm 100

A reading from Psalm.

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

SILENCE

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from Philippians.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

REFLECTION

PRAYER

The Holy Spirit prays with us and through us.

Trusting God's word and promises, we pray in the power of the Spirit and in the name of Christ Jesus, making our "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings" (1 Timothy 2:1) for the sake of all creation. In singing and silence, in stillness and sighing, when lifting our hands or lighting a candle, we pray.

Thanksgiving for the Word: November

Holy God,
our Sovereign, our Wisdom, our Judge,
as nature in the north cycles towards dormancy and death,
we thank you for the sustenance of your Word.
For your Word of life, we give thanks.
For your Word of life, we give thanks.

We praise you for speaking through Christ your Word,
in whom is your authority, your truth, and the justice of your ways.
When we are threatened by dangers and surrounded by evil,
you speak to us of life that comes through Christ's death.
For your Word of promise, we praise you.
For your Word of promise, we praise you.

Grant us the endurance of the Spirit of your Son.
Upheld by the voice of your Word,
may we persevere with courage, energy, and joy,
serving our neighbors faithfully until the end of our days.
For your Word of power, we plead.
For your Word of power, we plead.

Abide with us in your Word, O God,
that we may speak your blessing to others,
today and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

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

Through prayer the Spirit draws us more deeply into the beauty and the suffering of the world. Following a song and a final time of silence we are sent, with Christ, to enter more fully into God's love for and work in the world. This is our prayer "without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

SILENCE

SONG *O Beauty Ever Ancient* (ACS 1100)

O Beauty Ever Ancient

1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,

di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,

Refrain
in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020

Music: ANCIENT BEAUTY, Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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ANNOUNCEMENT

BREAD LOAF OFFERING - NOVEMBER – Giving Tree

- Office will be closed Nov 27 and 28. If you need something please call the church office, or email the church.
- Food Pantry needs, with the colder weather the need for Soup increases. While we still need Cereal and Peanut Butter, we could also use Soup as well.

- The attendance for weekly Midweek Advent services in the past has been very poor. This year we will have one midweek Advent Service on Tuesday December 16th at 6:00pm. This will be a Soup and Salad carry in for both Hope and Grace in the Parish Hall at Grace. You can bring in your favorite Soup, Salad or home made bread items and we will have a devotional in the Parish Hall as we eat. The church will be providing drinks. Please plan on attending and having some great fellowship.
- **Bread Loaf Offering**
The November Bread Loaf offering will be going to our Giving Tree. Thanks to Linda Trowbridge, we will be partnering with Mission 25 and giving gifts for 2 families and also towels and linens. The money collected in the Bread Loaf will help buy gifts for any tags left on the tree and also help pay for the towels and linens. Since the Salvation Army does not have a director for Whitley County, we had to turn to other charities that needed help. The giving tree will be going up the weekend before Thanksgiving. Thank You for your generous giving. Any questions please ask Joe Freiburger, Linda Trowbridge or Pastor Matt
- **Holiday Service Location and Time**
Last year there was concern that we did not have a late Christmas Eve Service.
We have brought that back this year.
Thanksgiving 9am Hope
Christmas Eve 7pm Grace no communion
9pm Hope no communion
11pm Grace no communion

Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church

Monday November 24, 2025

Helping hands 12:30 pm

Scouting America Troop 84 B/G 6:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

Tuesday November 25, 2025

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

WC quilters 6:30 pm

Cub scouts Pack 3082 Pack meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday November 26, 2025

No School

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Food Vouchers 4 pm

Thursday November 27, 2025

Thanksgiving

No school

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

Friday November 28, 2025

Pastor's Day Off

No school

Food Pantry 12 pm

Saturday November 29, 2025

Whitley County Community choir 9 am

Sunday November 30, 2025

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

Worship @ Grace 10:00 am

Fellowship 11:15 am

Girl scouts 2 pm

sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour. Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would like to stay.