

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

10:30 AM



University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

Welcome. Peace be with you.

We continue our holy experiment. We're worshipping together in-person and virtually on YouTube. Welcome to all!

For those worshipping in-person, please remember:

- ❖ **To support the health and wellness of all those among us**, feel welcome to use masks and hand sanitizer, stay current with your vaccinations, and stay home as needed if you are unwell.
- ❖ **We honor one another's boundaries** by asking permission to be in close proximity, and finding alternate ways to greet one another and share the peace (a deep bow, the peace sign, an air hug, etc.). Our risk levels and comfort differ.
- ❖ **In our service today, we will share Holy Communion.** Ushers will direct you.
- ❖ **If you are new to the community** and wish to speak with a Pastor or be included in our communication and activities, fill out the blue slip in the pew rack and give it to an usher. We'll follow up. It's also just fine to be anonymous. To get more involved, check out our website: <http://www.ulch.org/> To receive the weekly enews, the Thursday Epistle, contact our church administrator at ulch@ulch.org.
- ❖ **Children are welcome in worship.** Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles. Craft tables are available for families at the front of the sanctuary. Note: The nursery is not staffed, but is available for your use. The nursery is on the upper level of the education wing, most easily reached from the doors nearest the baptismal font.
- ❖ **After worship, enjoy the time to linger for conversation** in the lounge, courtyard and patio.

Land Acknowledgment

This Land Acknowledgment, and our response, are both a work in progress. We're actively engaged in a process to move beyond a simple acknowledgment, and toward a more active commitment. Watch for more opportunities for our community.

We gather for worship on the land of our Creator. Many of us and our church building dwell in the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinaabeg people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.

GATHERING

+ Indicates the assembly stand as able. Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

ELW refers to the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. **ACS** refers to *All Creation Sings*, an *ELW* supplement.

Prelude

Canzonetta

G.B. Pergolesi (1710-1736)

Uli Koester, cello

Welcome

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

A moment of silent reflection.

God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love.

We do not keep your word,

And when we participate in gossip,

Our words and deeds cause pain.

Forgive us by the power of your mercy,

That we might stand in the goodness of Christ

And walk in the light of his love. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, your sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ,

Who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame.

Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great;

Jesus brings healing, justice, and peace.

+ Processional Hymn O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! (*Vss 1-3*)

ELW 308

+ Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ Prayer of the Day

Redeeming God, **you come to us in Christ to rescue us from captivity so that we may freely love.**

Guide us by the wisdom of the cross, and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and hope.

Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

First Reading - Micah 6:1-8 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

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?

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Escuchen lo que dice el SEÑOR:

«Levántate, presenta tu pleito ante las montañas;
deja que las colinas oigan tu voz».

Montañas, escuchen el pleito del SEÑOR;
presten atención, firmes cimientos de la tierra.
Porque el SEÑOR tiene un pleito contra su pueblo,
presenta una acusación contra Israel:
«Pueblo mío, ¿qué te he hecho?

¿En qué te he ofendido? ¡Respóndeme!

Yo fui quien te sacó de Egipto,
quien te libró de esa tierra de esclavitud.

Yo envié a Moisés, Aarón y Miriam
para que te dirigieran.

Recuerda, pueblo mío,
lo que pidió Balac, rey de Moab,
y lo que le respondió Balán, hijo de Beor.
Recuerda tu paso desde Sitín hasta Guilgal,
y reconoce que el SEÑOR actuó con justicia».

¿Con qué me presentaré ante el SEÑOR
y me postraré ante el Dios Altísimo?

¿Podré presentarme con holocaustos
o con becerros de un año?

¿Se complacerá el SEÑOR con miles de carneros
o con diez mil arroyos de aceite?

¿Ofreceré a mi primogénito por mi delito,
al fruto de mis entrañas por mi pecado?

¡Él te ha mostrado, oh mortal, lo que es bueno!

¿Y qué es lo que espera de ti el SEÑOR?:

Practicar la justicia,
amar la misericordia
y caminar humildemente ante tu Dios.

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

Demos gracias a Dios.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

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 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."

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Me explico: El mensaje de la cruz es una locura para los que se pierden; en cambio, para los que se salvan, Me explico: El mensaje de la cruz es una locura para los que se pierden; en cambio, para los que se salvan, es decir, para nosotros, este mensaje es el poder de Dios. Pues está escrito: «Destruiré la sabiduría de los sabios; frustraré la inteligencia de los inteligentes». ¿Dónde está el sabio? ¿Dónde el erudito? ¿Dónde el filósofo de esta época? ¿No ha convertido Dios en locura la sabiduría de este mundo? Ya que Dios, en su sabio designio, dispuso que el mundo no lo conociera mediante la sabiduría humana, tuvo a bien salvar, mediante la locura de la predicación, a los que creen. Los judíos piden señales y los que no son judíos buscan sabiduría, mientras que nosotros predicamos a Cristo crucificado. Este mensaje es motivo de tropiezo para los judíos y es locura para los no judíos, pero para los que Dios ha llamado, sean judíos o no sean, Cristo es el poder de Dios y la sabiduría de Dios. Pues la locura de Dios es más sabia que la sabiduría humana y la debilidad de Dios es más fuerte que la fuerza humana. Hermanos, consideren su propio llamamiento: no muchos de ustedes son sabios, según criterios meramente humanos; tampoco son muchos los poderosos ni muchos los de noble cuna. Pero Dios escogió lo tonto del mundo para avergonzar a los sabios, y escogió lo débil del mundo para avergonzar a los poderosos. También escogió Dios lo más bajo y despreciado, y lo que no es nada, para anular lo que es, a fin de que en su presencia nadie pueda jactarse. Pero gracias a él ustedes están unidos en Cristo Jesús, a quien Dios ha hecho nuestra sabiduría, justificación, santificación y redención; para que, como está escrito: «Si alguien ha de gloriarse, que se gloríe en el Señor».

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

Demos gracias a Dios.

+ Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

+ Gospel Reading - Matthew 5:1-12 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The gospel according to Matthew the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon - Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

Cuando vio a las multitudes, subió a la ladera de una montaña y se sentó. Sus discípulos se le acercaron, tomó él la palabra y comenzó a enseñarles diciendo:

«Dichosos los pobres en espíritu,

porque el reino de los cielos les pertenece.

Dichosos los que sufren, porque serán consolados.

Dichosos los humildes,

porque recibirán la tierra como herencia.

Dichosos los que tienen hambre y sed de justicia,

porque serán saciados.

Dichosos los compasivos, porque serán tratados con compasión.

Dichosos los de corazón limpio, porque ellos verán a Dios.

Dichosos los que trabajan por la paz,

porque serán llamados hijos de Dios.

Dichosos los perseguidos por causa de la justicia,

porque el reino de los cielos les pertenece.

»Dichosos serán ustedes cuando por mi causa la gente los insulte, los persiga y levante contra ustedes toda clase de calumnias. Alégrese y llénense de júbilo, porque les espera una gran recompensa en el cielo. Así también persiguieron a los profetas que los precedieron a ustedes.

El Evangelio del Señor.

Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!

+ Hymn of the Day

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062, Text: Bjorlin



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Prayers of the People

Following each petition: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

And also with you.

Y también contigo.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ using these or similar words "Peace be with you" or "La paz del Señor."

MEAL

Offertory

Light Everlasting
Hope Choir

Olaf C. Christiansen (1948)

Thank you for your continued generosity! Donations may be sent electronically or by mail, or placed in the offering plate in the center of our space as you come forward for Holy Communion. A QR code is available on the last page of the bulletin.

+ Offertory Prayer

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. **Amen.**

+ The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

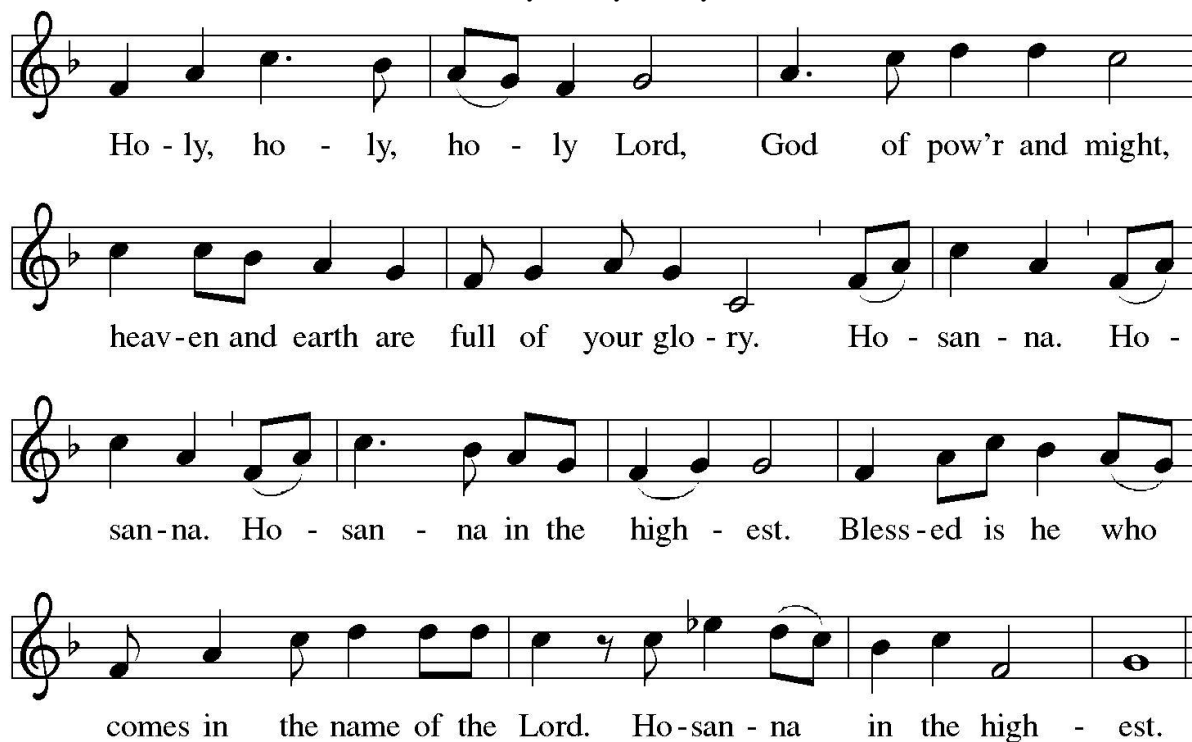
Let us give thanks to our gracious God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed...join their unending hymn:

+ Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW communion setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

+ Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

+ The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, Our Mother, 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.

Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal and blessing, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.

If you are at home and sitting with others...

When sharing the bread with someone, say to them: "This is the body of Christ, given for you." When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

If you are at home on your own...

Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."

If you are worshipping in-person today...

We invite you to come forward to receive the elements and hear the words of promise, or to receive a blessing. Following the direction of the ushers, come forward: pick up a cup, gather around the table, receive the bread (gluten free is available), the servers will pour into your cup either the red wine or white grape juice, place used cups in the basket.

Children of all ages are welcome to partake at Holy Communion.

If you seek healing prayers today...

A healing minister is available during Holy Communion this morning. If you'd like prayers for healing for yourself, for those you love, or for other situations, you are invited to come to one of the healing ministers. You can ask for specific prayers, or simply ask them to pray with you...and they will. During this time, you may also dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, and light candles for situations around the world and close to home.

Music During Communion As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

For the Troubles and the Sufferings ACS 1051, Rodolfo Gaede Neto
Cantor Sings once, then ***All (see next page)***

Pe - las do - res des - te mun - do, ó Se - nhor,
 For the trou - bles and the suf - f'ring of the world,

im - plo - ra - mos pi - e - da - de. A
 God, we call up - on your mer - cy: the

um só tem - po ge - me a cri - a - ção. *Teus ou -*
 whole cre - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain! Lend an

vi - dos se in - cli - nem ao cla - mor des - sa
 ear . . . to the ris - ing cry for help from op -

gen - te o - pri - mi - da. A - *pres - sa - te com*
 pressed and hope - less peo - ple: Come! Has - ten your sal -

tu - a sal - va - ção. A *tu - a paz,*
 va - tion, heal - ing love! We pray for peace,

ben - di - ta e ir - ma - na - da co'a jus -
 the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing

ti - ça a - bra - ce o mun - do in - tei - ro.
 jus - tice, to cov - er and em - brace us.

Tem com - pai - xão! O *teu po - der*
 Have mer - cy, Lord! We pray for pow'r,

sus - ten - te o tes - te - mu - nho do teu po - vo.
 the pow'r that will sus - tain your peo - ple's wit - ness:

Teu rei - no ve - nha a nos! Ky - ri - e - le - i - son!
 un - til your king - dom comes. Ky - ri - e - le - i - son!

+ Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

+ Prayer after Communion

Jesus our friend and savior, your life, death, and resurrection changed our world. May this meal of bread and wine bless us and sustain us in the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people. **Amen.**

Announcements

SENDING

+ Sending Hymn

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

+ Benediction

May Christ's light shine brightly on your path as you walk the way of justice and peace. And the blessing of God - the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life - bless you and keep you always. **Amen.**

+ Dismissal

Go in peace to seek justice for all people.
Thanks be to God!

Id en paz a buscar justicia para todas las personas.
Gracias a Dios!

Postlude

Sicilienne
Uli Koester, cello

G. Faure (1830-1914)

**Staff at University Lutheran
Church of Hope**

Lead Pastor

Rev. Amanda Simons (she/her)
amandas@ulch.org

Pastor

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert (she/her)
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Minister of Worship and Music

Paul Stever (he/him)
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Church Administrator

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Financial Administrator

Catherine Menick (she/her)
FinAdmin@ulch.org

Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech

Please share our open position

Custodian

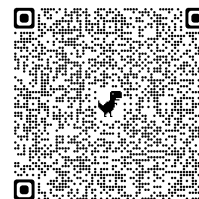
Geremew Beshah (he/him)

Lutheran Campus Pastor

Kate Reuer Welton (she/her)
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University Lutheran Church of Hope

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Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

Today’s Worship Leaders

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); Stewart Herman (assisting minister); Hope Choir, Uli Koester, cello, Paul Stever (musicians); Tim Abrahamson, John Lauber, Wayne Lee, Julia Reimann-Perez (communion servers); Sheila Hougen (lector); Matthew Fry (worship tech facilitator); Muffi Abrahamson (greeter); Antje Enders, Kelleen Brooks, Sampson Evans, Ron Sorensen (ushers); Juna Evans, Liv Evans (acolytes); Serafina Scheel (worship prep); Karilyn Alexander, Pauline Hendrickson (communion clean-up); Diane Greve, Ann Rolle (healing prayer)

**Congregational Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 8 Following Worship**

**Next Fellowship Meal
Sunday, February 15 Following Worship**

Night Songs: Sunday, February 15 at 7pm

Save the date for another Night Songs performance with our own Hope Choir and other local choirs! Many things will be similar to past years, but last time this event was so popular that we weren't able to seat everyone who showed up. So this time around we are requiring people to reserve tickets online in advance, to help ensure there is a seat for each person who comes: <https://Nightsongs2026.eventbrite.com>

We also need volunteers to help the event run smoothly. If you will be coming and could arrive early or stay late to help with various tasks please talk with Jo Schroeder or message Paul Stever at pauls@ulch.org.