

Christmas in July
July 26, 2026
10:00 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!

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

Beautiful Savior arr. Carol Troutman Wiggins (2017)

Hannah Do, violin

Welcome

+Gathering Litany

It may seem naive, in a world of grief, **to choose to live in joy;**

It may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, **to sing and dance to a different tune;**

It may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice, **to speak of light and celebration;**

But you have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our struggles, singing into our mourning;
and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy you offer.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Hallelujah! Amen.

*Copyright © 2010 John van de Laar, on his **Sacredise.com** website. Edited for our worship.*

+ Gathering Hymn

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

+ Greeting

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

+ Prayer of the Day

Incarnate God, the coming of your Child into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of our fears, and empower us to proclaim your presence among us. **Amen.**

WORD

Children's Message

Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem,

Qué hermosos son, sobre los montes, los pies del que trae
buenas noticias, del que proclama la paz, del que anuncia
buenas noticias, del que proclama la salvación, del que
dice a Sión: «¡Tu Dios reina!».

¡Escucha! Tus centinelas alzan la voz y juntos gritan de
alegría, porque ven con sus propios ojos
que el SEÑOR vuelve a Sión.

Ruinas de Jerusalén,
¡prorrumpen juntas en canciones de alegría!

for the LORD has comforted his people;
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
 The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Porque el SEÑOR ha consolado a su pueblo,
 ha redimido a Jerusalén.
 El SEÑOR desnudará su santo brazo
 a la vista de todas las naciones
 y todos los confines de la tierra
 verán la salvación de nuestro Dios.

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.
Demos gracias a Dios.

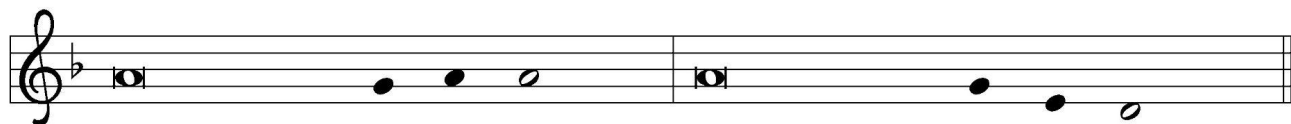
Psalm 98

Refrain Music by Jeremy Young

Refrain (*1st time cantor sings, all sing thereafter*)



Cantor sings the odd verses, all sing the Even verses



¹Sing a new song to GOD, who has done ¹marvelous things,
 whose right hand and holy arm have ¹won the victory.

²**O GOD, you have made ¹known your victory,
 you have revealed your righteousness
 in the sight ¹of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness
 to the ¹house of Israel;
 all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹all you lands;
 lift up your voice, re- ¹joice, and sing. Refrain**

⁵Sing to GOD ¹with the harp,
 with the harp and the ¹voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹of the horn
 shout with joy before the ¹king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹all that fills it,
 the world and those who ¹dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers ¹clap their hands,
 and let the hills ring out with joy before
 GOD, who comes to ¹judge the earth.**

⁹GOD will judge the ¹world with righteousness
 and the peo- ¹ples with equity. **Refrain**

¹¡Canten al SEÑOR un cántico nuevo
 porque ha hecho maravillas!
 Su diestra, su santo brazo, ha alcanzado la victoria.

²**El SEÑOR ha hecho gala de su salvación;
 ha mostrado su justicia a las naciones.**

³Se ha acordado de su gran amor y de su fidelidad
 por el pueblo de Israel; todos los confines de la tierra
 son testigos de la salvación de nuestro Dios!

⁴**¡Aclamen alegres al SEÑOR, habitantes de toda la
 tierra! ¡Prorrumpen en alegres cánticos y salmos!**

⁵¡Canten salmos al SEÑOR al son del arpa,
 al son del arpa y de coros melodiosos!

⁶**¡Aclamen alegres al SEÑOR, el Rey,
 al son de clarines y trompetas!**

⁷¡Brame el mar y todo lo que él contiene;
 el mundo y todos sus habitantes!

⁸**¡Que aplaudan los ríos
 y canten jubilosos todos los montes!**

⁹Canten delante del SEÑOR, que ya viene a juzgar la tierra.
 Y juzgará al mundo con justicia,
 a los pueblos con equidad. **R**

+ Gospel AcclamationAll My Heart Again Rejoices (*vss. 1 & 3*)

ELW 273

+ Gospel Reading - Luke 2:1-14

The gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Por aquellos días, Augusto César decretó que se levantara un censo en todo el Imperio romano. Este primer censo se efectuó cuando Cirenio gobernaba en Siria. Así que iban todos a inscribirse, cada cual a su propio pueblo. También José, que era descendiente del rey David, subió de Nazaret, ciudad de Galilea, a Judea. Fue a Belén, la Ciudad de David, para inscribirse junto con María, que estaba comprometida para casarse con él. Ella se encontraba embarazada y mientras estaban allí se le cumplió el tiempo. Así que dio a luz a su hijo primogénito. Lo envolvió en pañales y lo acostó en un pesebre, porque no había lugar para ellos en la posada. En esa misma región había unos pastores que pasaban la noche en el campo, turnándose para cuidar su rebaño. Sucedió que un ángel del Señor se les apareció. La gloria del Señor los envolvió en su luz y se llenaron de temor. Pero el ángel dijo: «No tengan miedo. Miren que traigo buenas noticias que serán motivo de mucha alegría para todo el pueblo. Hoy ha nacido en la Ciudad de David un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor. Esto les servirá de señal: Encontrarán a un niño envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre». De repente apareció una multitud de ángeles del cielo, que alababan a Dios y decían: «Gloria a Dios en las alturas, y en la tierra paz a los que gozan de su buena voluntad».

El Evangelio del Señor.

Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!

Sermon - Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert

+ Hymn of the DayHark! The Herald Angels Sing (*vss. 1 & 3*)

ELW 270

+ Prayers of the People

Following each petition: God of Grace, hear our prayer.

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

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

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Hannah Do, soprano

Text: P. Cappeau, trans. J. Dwight

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

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **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 right.... we join their unending hymn:

+ Sanctus

Text adapted by Paul Stever, Music: CRANHAM



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, God of gent - le might,
heav - en shines with splen - dor, earth un - veils your light. Soft ho - san - nas fill the skies,
"Glo - ry" swells on high. Blest be God's own who comes Je - sus — Christ.

+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

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

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.

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), receive either the red wine or white grape juice in your cup, place your used cup 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.

If you are so inclined during this time... You may dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, light candles for situations around the world and close to home or add a prayer to the prayer wall. All prayer slips remain anonymous. Periodically throughout the year, prayers are removed from the wall, blessed during worship, and burned in our courtyard fireplace as a sign of releasing our burdens and entrusting our concerns to God's care.

Music During Communion	Lo, How a Rose (Vss. 1-3)	ELW 272
	What Feast of Love	ELW 487
	Away in a Manger (Vss. 1 & 3)	ELW 278

+ Table Blessing

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

+ Prayer after Communion

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

+Announcements

SENDING

+Sending Hymn

Love Has Come

ELW 292

+Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Go Tell It On the Mountain arr. Norah Duncan IV (2017)

Staff at University Lutheran Church of Hope

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Pastor

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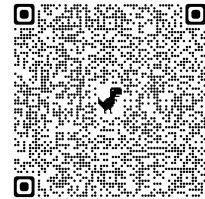
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University Lutheran Church of Hope

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Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); Jan Sanden (assisting minister); Hannah Do, violin and soprano, Paul Stever (musicians); John Beane, Bruce Eldevik, Beth Kautz, Bill Sanden (communion servers); Bill Sanden (lector); Addison Gillette (worship tech facilitator); Elaine Sarkela (greeter); Antje Enders, Thomas Enders, Uli Koester (ushers); Serafina Scheel (worship prep); Kathy Kufus, Evan Peterson (communion clean-up); Ann Agrimson, Donna Neste (healing prayer)

About Hannah Do, violinist and soprano

"Hannah Do is a soprano currently pursuing a BM in Music Performance at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Having studied music since the age of four, she has participated in numerous opera and musical theatre productions and has performed with the Tanglewood Music Center, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Minnesota Chorale alongside with Minnesota Orchestra next season.

Her musical achievements include being a National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition National Semifinalist, a two-time Second Prize winner in the Minnesota NATS competition, two-time Second Prize recipient of the Thursday Musical Scholarship Competition, and First Prize Winner of Asia Arts Festival Vietnam.

Outside of music, Hannah enjoys research, writing, and reading - studying public health and political science. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve through the church's music ministry and look forward to supporting worship and the congregation."

Save the Date - Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 10 at 7pm, suggested freewill donation \$10

Orkestar Bez Ime [or-KESS-tar behz EE-meh], meaning "orchestra without a name" in Bulgarian, was formed in 2002 to recreate the sounds of the village with a presentation as festive as the music itself. Focusing on Eastern Europe and music of the Rom ("Gypsy") people, OBI's repertoire reaches from Albania to Ukraine, with plenty of stops in between. Orkestar Bez Ime is a winner of the 2011-2012 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Performing Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music and a recipient of a 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composers Award from the American Composers Forum. OBI is: Colleen Bertsch, Scott Keever, Matt Miller, Katrina Munding, Natalie Nowytski, and Eric Ray. <https://orkestarbezime.com/>

Sunday, September 20, after morning worship

Neighborhood Hope Party with Re-Circulation Event and Oven-Baked Pizza

October 10 North Star Sustainable Living Festival