



Sunday, April 7, 2024  
First Sunday After Easter  
Hope Lutheran Church, Plainwell  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting Seven*  
[www.hopeplainwell.org](http://www.hopeplainwell.org)

Hope's Mission Statement: We, Hope Lutheran Church, are CALLED by God,  
REDEEMED by Jesus Christ, SPROUTING from  
the seed of God's Word, and BRANCHING out to reach God's people...

\*Please stand as you are comfortable  
**Congregational responses are in bold text**  
‡ invites you to make the sign of the cross.

*Please silence your phone, pager, or other electronic device for worship.*  
*Children's worship bags are available in the nursery.*

## **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**PASTORAL WELCOME**

**\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (pg. 94)**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! ELW #385

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*GLORIA (p. 176)**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*At the conclusion of the prayer...Amen.*

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 133**

*Psalms are read responsively whole verse by whole verse.*

How good and how pleas- | ant it is, when kindred live togeth- | er in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard, upon  
the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar | of his robe.**

It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the | hills of Zion. For there  
the Lord has commanded the blessing: life for- | evermore.

**SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 179)**

## **\*GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** We Walk by Faith ELW #635

**\*NICENE CREED** (p. 104)

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*If you have a prayer request that you would like added to our weekly worship prayers please contact Pr. Nicole. If we will be praying for an individual or family please make sure you have their permission to have them listed.*

*Please respond to God of grace with... **Hear our prayer.***

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**\*PEACE**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Please quietly return to your seat when the offering hymn plays so we can prepare for Holy Communion.*

**\*OFFERING HYMN** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *ELW #184*

*Thank you for your support of Hope and our missions! Checks and cash can be placed on the offering plate located outside the sanctuary doors. You can also give instantly and securely through online giving using the QR code below.*



**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

*At the conclusion of the prayer...Amen.*

**\*DIALOGUE (p. 152)**

**\*SANCTUS (p. 181)**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER (p. 182)**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

*During Communion individual cups of wine & grape juice are available. The wine is red & the grape juice is white. There is also a common cup of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you are not yet baptized, or do not feel prepared to receive Communion, you are invited to participate by coming forward to receive a blessing.*

**LAMB OF GOD (p. 182)**

**COMMUNION HYMN** With High Delight Let Us Unite ELW #368

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*At the conclusion of the prayer...Amen.*

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING HYMN** Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! ELW #380

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Come One. Come All. Come Hungry. Soup Supper to benefit Christian Neighbors Wednesday, April 10 from 5-7 pm. Please tell all of your friends.
- Pr. Sprang will be coming to Hope on Saturday, April 27th from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to discuss congregational mission planning. Please plan to attend and welcome Pr. Sprang! Sandwiches & chips will be provided.
- Styrofoam recycling is April 20 at 10 am at Riverfront Mayors Park in Kalamazoo. If you have styrofoam recycling, bring it to the church no later than the morning of April 14th.
- The Feeding America Truck will be at Hope tomorrow, Monday, April 8th. Food will be distributed from 11am-12 noon.
- Time for Baseball! Immanuel Lutheran has invited us to join them for a White Caps baseball game on Saturday, August 24th. The game begins at 7:05 pm. Tickets are \$16 each. Your ticket money is due by Saturday, July 14th. Please make checks out to Hope Lutheran with White Caps Game in the memo line. If you have any questions please see Pr. Nicole.
- The next council meeting is Tuesday, April 16th at 6:00 p.m.
- Hope's April item for Christian Neighbors is Canned Sloppy Joe Mix.
- Please place your hymnals on the chairs before you leave.