November 22, 2026



Compassion that Carries through to the End

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to

WORSHIP

We're so glad you decided to worship with us today. You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning, and you chose to spend your time with Living Hope. Thank you! It's an honor to have you here and to have the chance to fill you with hope. Welcome to Living Hope.

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Current Series: The Beginning of the End

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Today's Focus: Compassion that Carries through to the End

Jesus is coming again, and when he does, the King will separate the sheep from the goats. So how do we know if we're ready? Jesus points to lives marked by compassion, not as the way we earn heaven, but as the evidence of faith in him. Because Christ first showed compassion to us and secured our eternal inheritance, we have the privilege of loving the people he puts in front of us. And until the King returns, there's still time to share that love and point others to their Savior.

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ABOUT LIVING HOPE

Living Hope Lutheran Church is a brand new mission church on Chattanooga's east side. We are funded by and a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada.

Living Hope succeeds in its mission when hope forever in Jesus brings hope for every day in life.

For more on our mission, background, and beliefs just visit our website: **livinghopechatt.com**

ABOUT WORSHIP

Worship at Living Hope is designed to fill you with hope! The message you hear at Living Hope will center you on your Savior, Jesus, and what he's done for you. Worship isn't just about filling up God with praise. Worship is all about *God filling you* with good news!

We follow a basic order of service, called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news (gospel) about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include participation of those in attendance.

- Feel free to get up to use restrooms **at any time** during the service.
- **Restrooms** are located around the corner to your right.
- A **nursery** is available for small children out the left-hand side of the worship space. Just look for the **Kid's Zone sign** just past the info corner by the main entrance. Feel free to use that space during worship. The service will be livestreamed into the room.
- **Kid activity bags** are available on a table by the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Please fill out a **connection card**. It's our best way to stay in touch with you and thank you for joining us today! You'll find connection cards on the table at the entrance.
- Everything you need to enjoy today's worship will be found in this Worship Folder. **Songs** will also be found on the screen.

Show friends where you are—check in!

/livinghopechatt

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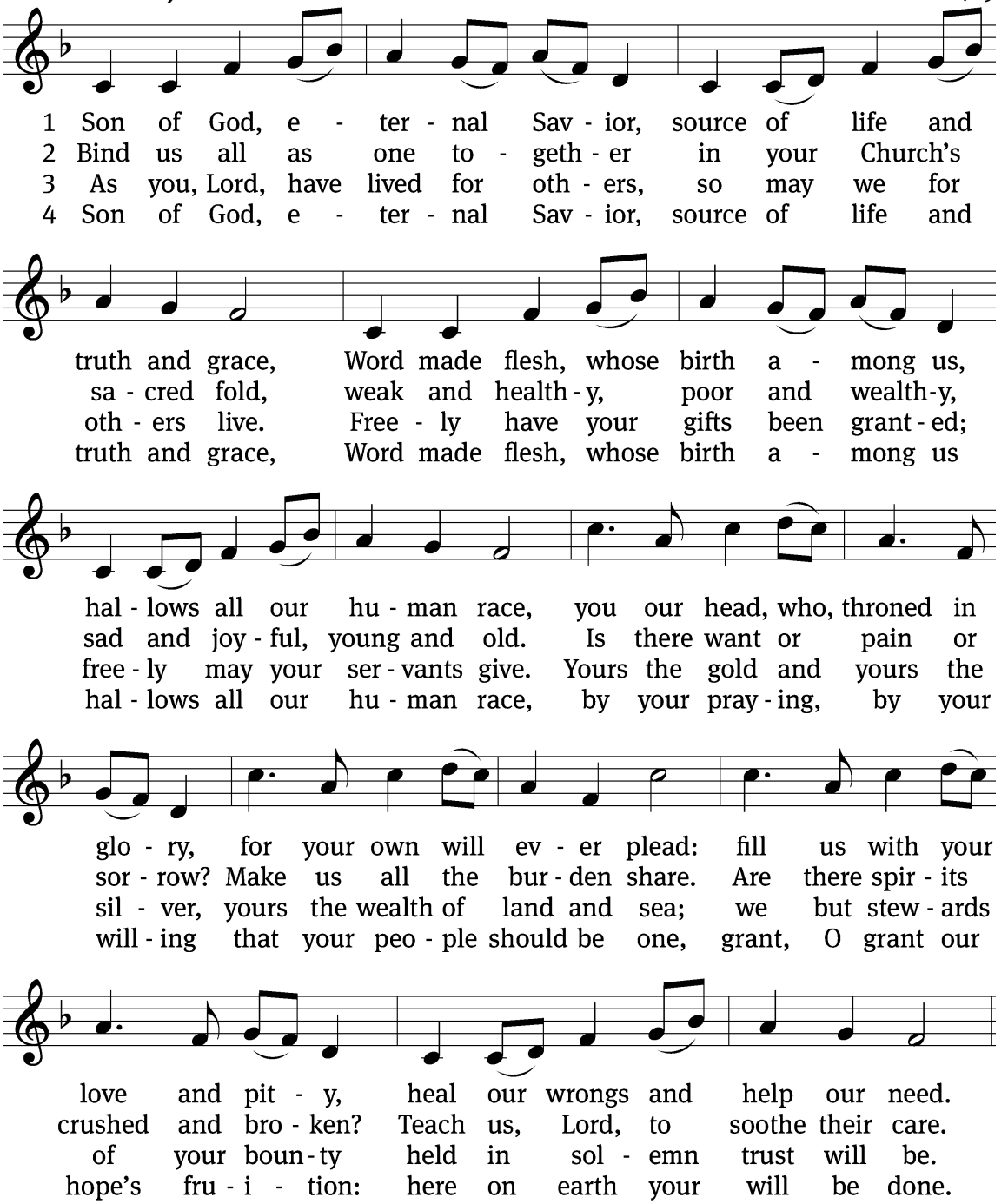
Son of God, Eternal Savior

CW 729



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The name of the Triune God and sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord ✝ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

In every worship service we confess our sins then cling to the forgiveness that Jesus gives us. Confession is called the "heartbeat of the Christian."

Confession & Absolution

This is what the Lord says – "I am he who blots out your transgressions and remembers your sins no more." *Isaiah 43:25*

He does not stay angry forever but delights to show mercy.

He will have compassion on us and tread our sins underfoot. *Micah 7:18,19*

He will hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. *Hebrews 4:16*

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

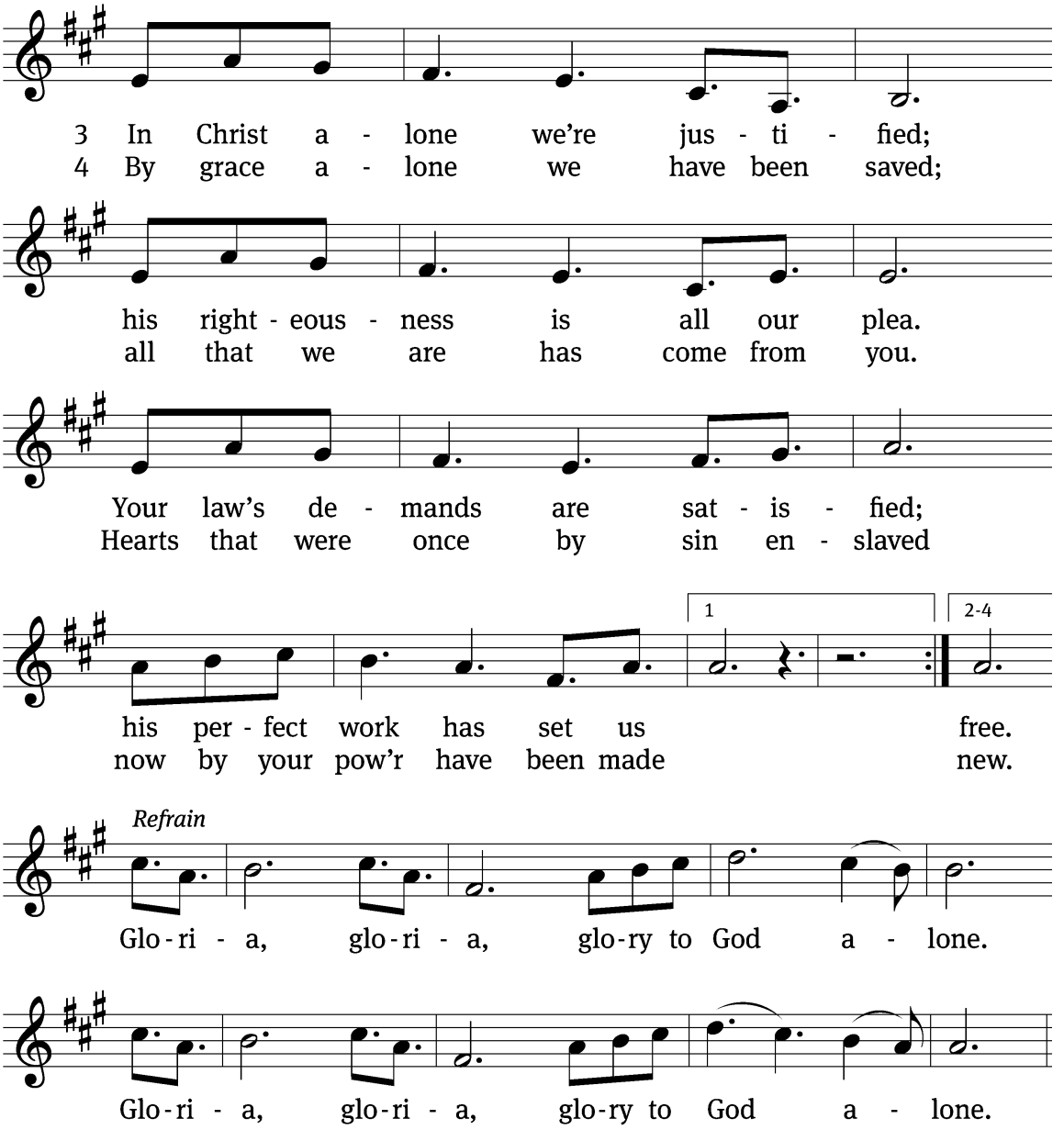
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1,2*

Therefore, at Christ's command and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. *1 John 1:7*

Reformation Song

CW 877 sts. Ref, 3–4



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Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

9 "As I looked,

"thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.
10 A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.
Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
The court was seated,
and the books were opened.

13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Epistle Reading

2 Peter 3:8–18

[8]But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. [9]The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

[10]But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

[11]Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives [12]as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. [13]But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

[14]So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. [15]Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. [16]He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

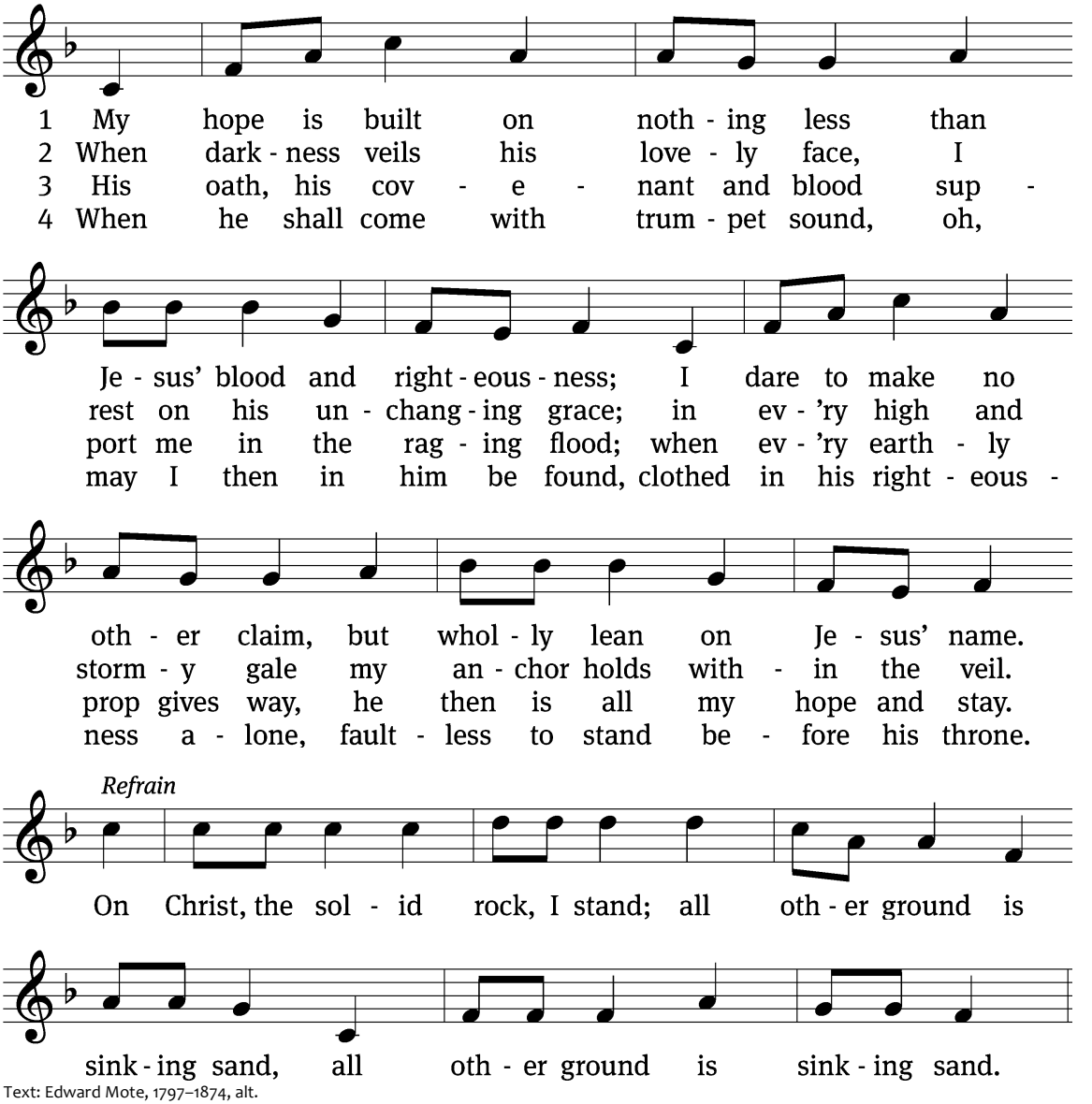
[17]Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. [18]But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward into the front for the children's message. They will be given a special message designed just for them that ties in with the sermon.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

CW 564



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Please Stand

The Gospel centers our worship as it shares with us the good news about Christ. We stand out of respect for our Savior as we hear about his words and deeds

Sermon Reading

Matthew 25:31–46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he
will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and
he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep
from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by
my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the
creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I
was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited
me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after
me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and
feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a
stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we
see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of
these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and
you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I
was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not
clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a
stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least
of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal
life."

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ! *Please be seated*

Compassion that Carries through to the End

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What makes Matthew 25 pretty cut and dry and straightforward?

2. What do many people, and even many Christians, not want to talk about?

3. What do we do when we run into a seeming contradiction in the Bible?

4. What's the point of the wet ground illustration?

5. Name some of the gospel nuggets in verse 34.

6. If we want to do something to show love to Jesus, what would he have us do?

7. How did Christ show his compassion to us and become "the least" for us?

8. Why did the sheep not remember doing all the things Jesus mentioned?

9. What is one reason God hasn't returned yet?

10. What opportunity do we have right now that only lasts a short time?

Discussion questions: *(for Theology on Tap)*

1. Both the goats and the sheep answer the question in the exact same way. Why is Jesus' answer to each different?
2. Why might Jesus point to ordinary acts of compassion—feeding, welcoming, clothing, visiting—as evidence of faith rather than extraordinary religious accomplishments? What does that say to us?
3. Go back and read 2 Peter 3:8-15. How does God's patience in delaying Judgment Day change the way we view the time we have right now? In what ways is that passage so good to pair with this one in Matthew 25?
4. Discuss some ways to show deeper, life-changing love than simply giving handouts to people in need. What are the barriers to giving that kind of compassion? What would be the benefits?

Christians have used the Nicene Creed since the fourth century to unite themselves together and to obey God's invitation to "confess with our mouth and believe with our hearts" (Romans 10:9).

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

We collect offerings out of thanks for what God has done for us so that we can support gospel work here and around the world. You can give using the envelope provided in your worship folder. You'll also find instructions there for how to give online if you'd prefer. Thank you for supporting our gospel ministry! If you are a guest with us don't feel obligated to contribute. This service is our free gift to you!

Praying the prayer of the church is a time when we can pray for people in all kinds of circumstances and for the work of God's church on earth.

Prayer of the Church

Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

Thank you for the healing you bring when we are sick, the protection you send when we are in danger, and the comfort you offer when we are sad. Lead us to be thankful as we believe that in all things you work for the good of those who love you.

Thank you for those who help and encourage us in difficult times.

Hear us, Lord, as we thank you for personal blessings.

Silent prayer

Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.
Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as an inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity or standing before God. See the announcement about our communion practice at the back of this worship folder for more info as well.

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

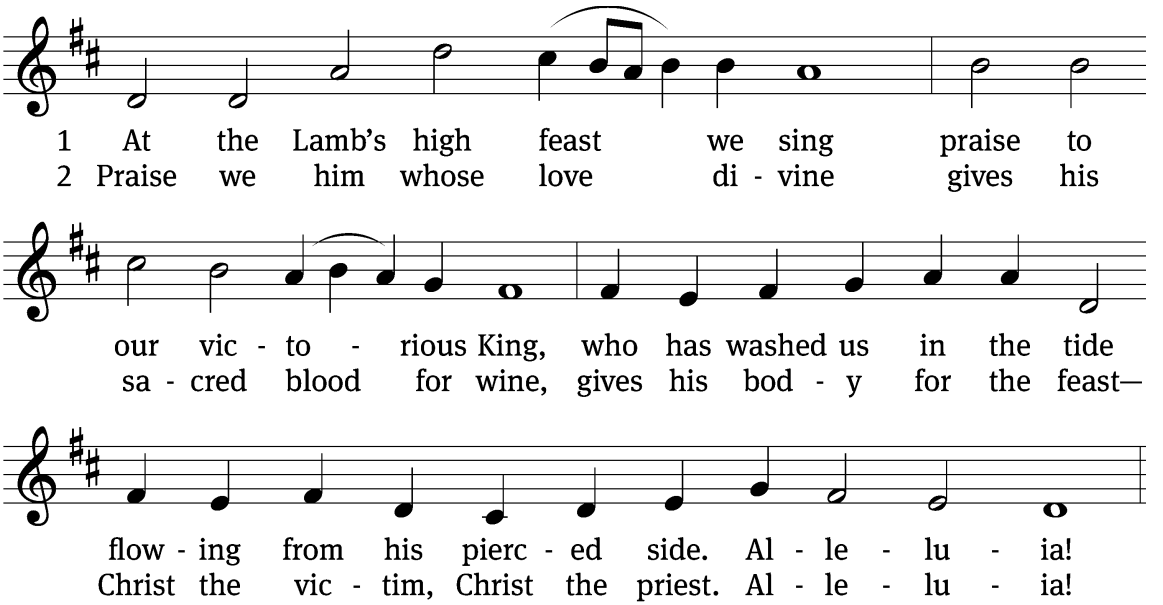
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Sanctus



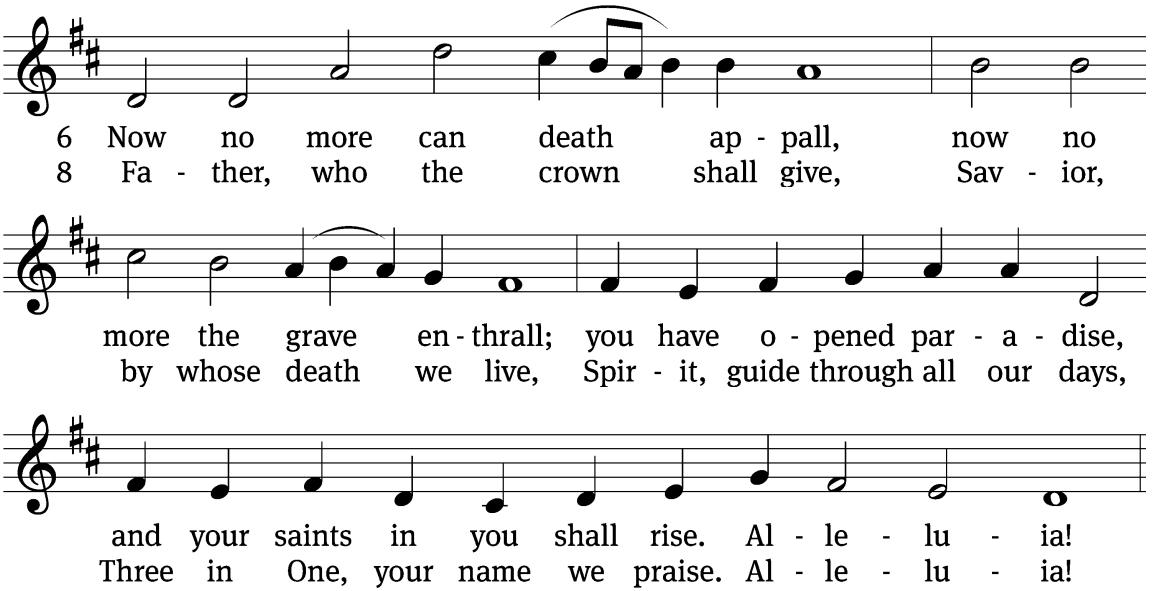
Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

As you wait to go up to the table take some moments to examine your heart. Acknowledge sin. Trust God's forgiveness through Christ. Recognize the real presence of Jesus' body and blood together with the bread and wine. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Distribution

Personal Prayer: Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.



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The historical "blessing of Aaron" (Numbers 6:24-26) has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters go in peace.

Live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

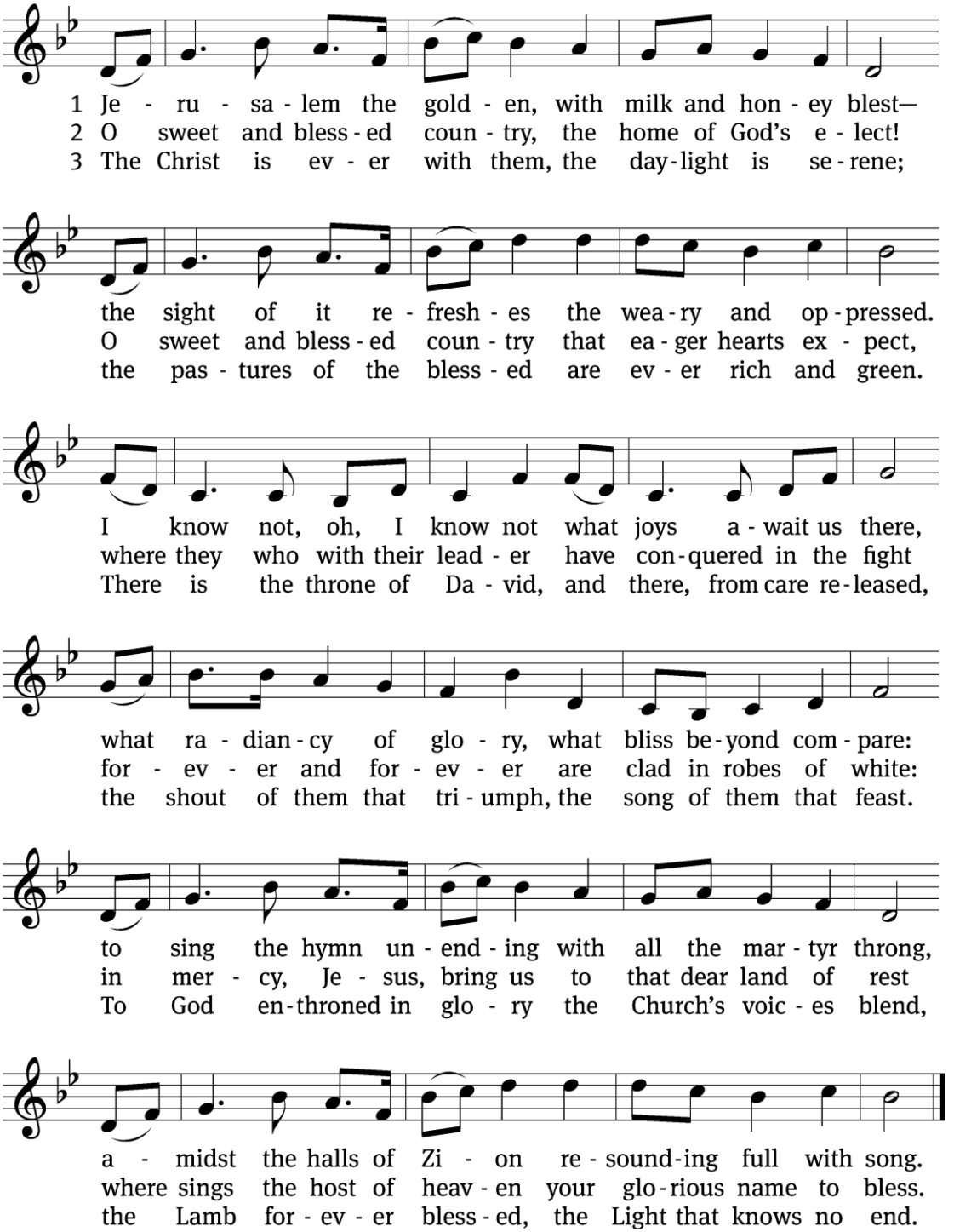
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Jerusalem the Golden

CW 889



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - The Word Who Breaks the Silence. The season of Advent culminates not in a silent night, but in the boisterous and powerful speech of our Creator. While we would do well to reflect on the moments when he is silent during this season, the moments where we long for his return, we must also remember that we have a God who does not remain silent for long, for his goodness, light, and love are wrapped up in his voice. Next week: The Word that Creates

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Pastor Eric Melso; preaching—Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; presiding
Gretchen Bassett; piano – David Dyer; guitar

Sunday School and Bible Study— Before Worship at 9:00 AM

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study will takes place before worship. The adults are doing a study on the topic of Sanctification.
Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks. Join us next week!

Christmas Booth at Cambridge Square Ooltewah - Saturday December 5 @ 12PM-8PM

We are thrilled to announce that Living Hope will have a booth at "Once Upon a Christmas at Cambridge Square"! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our neighbors, and invite the community to our upcoming Christmas services.

How You Can Help

- Volunteer at the Booth: We need volunteers to cover shifts throughout the day. Get in touch with Melissa about what time slots we need filled.
- Planning & Decorating: We are also looking for creative minds to help design and decorate our booth to make it warm and welcoming.

If you are interested in helping plan or decorate, please contact Jennifer Melso: (423) 250-4943 or Melissa Turner: (509) 949-6598

Connection Envelopes

We'd love to get your valuable feedback on our worship service today. If this is your first time at Living Hope we also want the opportunity to give you a gift to say "thanks for being our guest!" You can place your connection envelopes in the offering plate as it passes or in the basket located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Also feel free to just hand it to pastor.

Christmas Hymn Sing Fellowship Event – Saturday December 12th @ 5PM-7PM

Join at church us for our 3rd annual December fellowship event as we sing favorite Christmas Carols, share Christmas memories and enjoy some soup and cookies! Bring along a soup and your favorite Christmas cookies to share!

"Doing What We Can Homeless Outreach" Block Party - Saturday, December 19th @ 11AM-3PM

Living Hope is helping a local nonprofit organization called *Doing What We Can Homeless Outreach.* They host monthly block parties for our unhoused neighbors.

Our church has the privilege of providing the meal for this event! We are excited for this opportunity to let our light shine with the hopeless, even if they are outside of our personal, individual communities.

3 Ways You Can Get Involved:

1. Cook a Casserole: Make a casserole that feeds 10 people (we'll provide the recipe!). Drop it off at the church on Thursday, December 17th to coordinate a drop-off time with our admin assistant, Melissa Turner, at (509) 949-6598.
2. Serve at the Event: Sign up for a 2-hour shift at the block party to mingle and offer a listening ear to attendees.
3. Donate Winter Supplies: We are collecting thermal underwear and 2-to-4-person dome tents to distribute. Contact Lois Thom at (678) 488-1316 for more details.

Foundations Bible Study

If you're interested in membership here at Living Hope, Foundations is our "next step" class, but even if you're not interested in membership, you'll find it to be a good overview of what God has to say to you in his Word. If you're interested in attending the course just check the box on your connection envelope that says "I'd like to attend a membership class" in order to jump into a new group class or individual class. In-person or online classes are available!

Online classes are currently available on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Message pastor for a class link.

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Nov 23)
- Women's Group — will resume in 2027
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Dec 3)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting Wed Dec 9)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Dec 16 at 7pm

See more details for these groups at https://livinghopechatt.com/small-groups

Men's Group—Monday November 23 @ 7:00AM

Men's group will be meeting every other Monday morning at 7am at Panera Bread on Gunbarrel Rd. The group will discuss a wide variety of topics that address men living as citizens of the kingdom of heaven in a fallen world. Men of all ages are invited.

Panera Bread—1810 Gunbarrel Road—Chattanooga, TN 37421

Contact coordinator: Mike Frederickson (mfrederickson20@outlook.com)

Theology on Tap—Tuesday November 24 @ 7:00PM

Grab a drink. Grab a bite to eat. Get a taste for good theology and good conversation in a laid back setting. Each week we'll take a deeper look at Sundays sermon content and discuss how to apply that message to everyday life.

Theology on Tap meets at **Lupi's Pizza** in Cambridge Square**.**

9454 Bradmore Ln. Suite 109—Cambridge Square, Ooltewah

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

George Collins 11/23

Communion at Living Hope

Communion is important to us at Living Hope and we seek to honor the biblical view of *close communion*. Before coming up for communion, all adults should ask themselves these questions:

1. Do you confess your sins and seek to turn away from the sins you confessed?
2. Do you recognize that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the only way sin is forgiven?
3. Do you recognize that in the Sacrament you receive Jesus' true body and true blood along with the bread and the wine? (*1 Corinthians 11:27-29 + 1 Corinthians 10:15-17*)
4. Do you believe that the Bible *IS* God's inspired Word and does not just contain some truths of God?
5. Do you believe that Living Hope Lutheran Church teaches only the truth of God based on His inspired Word? (A summary of these teachings is taught in the *Foundations* course.)

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman

Snack Provider— Cundiff, Chandler

Ushers—Frizzell, Hansen

Acolyte—Silas Dyer

Service Teams — Next week Nov 29

Sunday Setup Team—Smith

Snack Provider—Hynson, Mayer

Ushers—Murray, Smith

Acolyte—Emi Ludwig

Pastor Eric Melso

pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com

www.livinghopechatt.com

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling.

LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY