

November 30, 2025



ADVENT

IMMINENT ARRIVAL

The Lord Is Near

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: Imminent Arrival

People eagerly anticipate the Christmas season. The Latin word *adventus* means arrival, and in the Christian church we eagerly anticipate three arrivals of Christ: the commemoration of his birth, his return on judgment day, and the moments he touches our hearts in Word and sacrament. This time of year (and always!) we get to feel the excitement of an imminent arrival. The Lord is near!

Today's Focus: The Lord Is Near

Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching King Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing full well that he will be killed before the end of the week. The events of Palm Sunday serve as a microcosm for all Jesus' work, proving the King of the universe was willing to humble himself and endure anything for our salvation. That is precisely why Christ came. That is why we anticipate his imminent arrival not with worry but with joy.

Today we welcome Pastor Cale Mead from Christ the Rock in Canton, GA. Christ the Rock is also a new Lutheran church plant with similar beginnings like Living Hope. We thank pastor Cale for leading us in worship today while Pastor Eric swaps and preaches in Canton this morning.



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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All Glory, Laud, and Honor

CW 412 sts. Ref-2, 4-5



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, Re-deem - er, King,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the King of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing you on high,
- 4 To you be - fore your pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
- 5 As you re - ceived their prais - es, ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, our good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Call to Worship

Come, let us praise the Father who sent his Son to be our Savior. Come, let us praise the Spirit who gives us hope and faith in the Son's love for us. Come, let us welcome the Son of God, who draws near to us as the Son of Mary.

The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

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

Dear friends, we are waiting and watching for the day when Christ will come again in glory.

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning. *Psalm 130:6*

He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness.

He will expose the motives of the heart.

1 Corinthians 4:5

The hour has come for us to wake up from our slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

Romans 13:11

Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light by turning to our God for mercy and pardon.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful

and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:

Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

What God promised long ago through his prophets he has fulfilled in his Son, Jesus Christ. Christ came in human flesh: Immanuel, God with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled God's law. By his innocent death, he paid sin's penalty. By rising from the

grave, he opened heaven's door. Christ now comes to you through his words of light and life: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

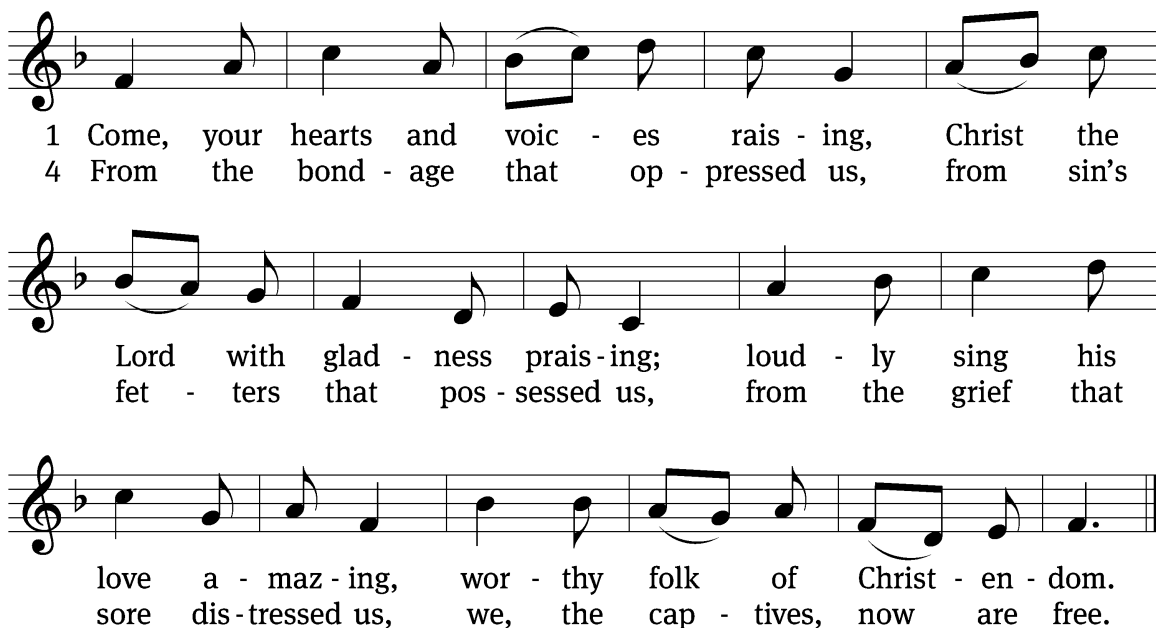
He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Revelation 22:10

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

CW 362 sts. 1, 4



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
4 From the bondage that oppressed us, from sin's

Lord with gladness praising; loudly sing his
fetters that possessed us, from the grief that

love amazing, worthy folk of Christendom.
sore distressed us, we, the captives, now are free.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027 Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

¹This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

24B Welcome the King

Psalms 24B sts. Ref, 4, 7

Refrain



Wel - come the King of glo - ry, each tribe and na - tion!



He is the LORD Al - might - y, bring - ing sal - va - tion.

Verses



4 Come, lift your voic - es high, be lift - ed to glo - ry;
7 Who is this King of glo - ry of whom we're sing - ing?

Refrain (sung after each verse)



the LORD our God ap - proach - es, come, shout the sto - ry.
Our God, this LORD of hosts, the vic - t'ry is bring - ing.

Text (sts. 4, 7): Arlo D. Duba; (Ref): Northwestern Publishing House

Tune: Israeli

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Tune: Public domain

Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

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.

Savior of the Nations, Come

CW 301



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God was the Word of
 vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing
 God the Son, our King, praise to God the



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is Near

My sermon notes:

Please stand

Holy Is Your Name

CW 956 sts. 1, Ref, 5



1 My ——— soul is filled with joy as I
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.



Refrain

And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt.

Tune: Scottish

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

When Jesus' disciples asked him how to pray he gave them the words of this prayer. (Matt. 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4) Since Jesus advises we pray this way, we say "The Lord's Prayer" every Sunday.

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.

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

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

CW 524



1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
2 The Lord, our Sav - ior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come



Re - joice, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home:



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - Imminent Arrival. People eagerly anticipate the Christmas season. The Latin word *adventus* means arrival, and in the Christian church we eagerly anticipate three arrivals of Christ: the commemoration of his birth, his return on judgment day, and the moments he touches our hearts in Word and sacrament. This time of year (and always!) we get to feel the excitement of an imminent arrival. The Lord is near!

Christmas Eve—Wednesday December 24 @ 6:30PM

There will be a hot chocolate bar with cookies after the Christmas Eve service. If able, please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share. Thanks!

Christmas Day—Thursday December 25 @ 11:00AM

(abbreviated devotion service with Lord's Supper— 11AM instead of our normal 10AM)

Lessons and Carols Service—Sunday December 28 @ 10:00AM

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Emily Knutson; piano



Sunday School and Bible Study—After worship at 11:30

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study will take place after worship today. The adults are doing a study on the book of Judges called Broken Saviors as we take a deep dive into a very rich and messy book of the Bible full of applications for us today.

Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks.

Living Hope Small Groups

Find more information on the small groups bulletin board in the lobby about available groups to get involved with.

- Theology on Tap and Women's Group — (ON BREAK)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Dec 1)
- Hands of Hope—Thursdays twice a month at 10am. (next meeting Thurs Dec 4)

Connection Envelopes

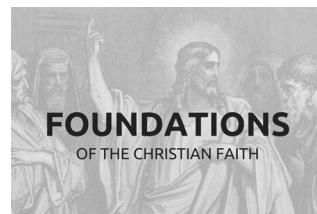
We'd love to get your valuable feedback on our worship service today. If this is your first time at Living Hope we also want the opportunity to give you a gift to say "thanks for being our guest!" You can place your connection envelopes in the offering plate as it passes or in the basket located at the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

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. There are both in-person or online classes available!

In person classes are available on Saturdays at 11:00am at church.

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



Living Hope Food Pantry Stock-up

Our church food pantry is running low, and we are asking our church family for help in blessing our neighbors. We'd love donations of pop-top canned items and family-friendly non-perishables. This would be things like:

baked beans, mac n' cheese, ramen, canned pastas, soups, vegetables, peanut butter, jam, and other easy staples.

Every item you give helps a family sit down to a comforting meal. We give this food out to people who contact us directly for help and to our neighbors in Cromwell Hills. If you're able, please drop donations on the table in the fellowship area. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in this way!

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Robert Phinizy—December 2

Anniversary Blessings:

Ted and Claudia Bunting—December 5

New Church Library

Our member Mary Snyder is heading up a new library program here at Living Hope. We'd love our members to make use of the solid Biblical teaching in some of the resources we'll have available. Here's some notes about our new church library.

- The library is located in the gathering area on the bookshelves by the window.
- Books in the library include copies of The People's Bible, audio books, and religious oriented texts and biographies.
- There is a sign out sheet in a binder near the books. Please sign on the appropriate line for the book borrowed and also sign the book back in when returned.
- If anyone would like to donate to the library, please contact Mary Snyder. Donated books should be religious in nature.

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Smith
Snack Provider—Amerson, Mayer
Ushers—Gorman, Hansen
Acolyte—Ka'myah Davis

Service Teams — Next week Dec 7

Sunday Setup Team—Baggett, Bloedorn
Snack Provider—Bassett, Dyer
Ushers—Hynson, Mayer
Acolyte—Eliza Dyer



LIVING HOPE
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

Pastor Eric Melso

423-933-2452

pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com

www.livinghopechatt.com

