November 15, 2026



Faithfully Serve the Faithful Master

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: Faithfully Serve the Faithful Master

In 21st century America, many people would say that being hard working is the most important quality a person can have. A hard worker can meet their deadlines, get the job done, and achieve their dreams. Jesus calls us to be good workers too, but he has a different quality in mind. In Matthew 25, Jesus uses a parable to encourage us to be faithful and joyful in our service to him. Not because we must meet a deadline or a quota, but because he wants us to experience his joy over our service.

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.

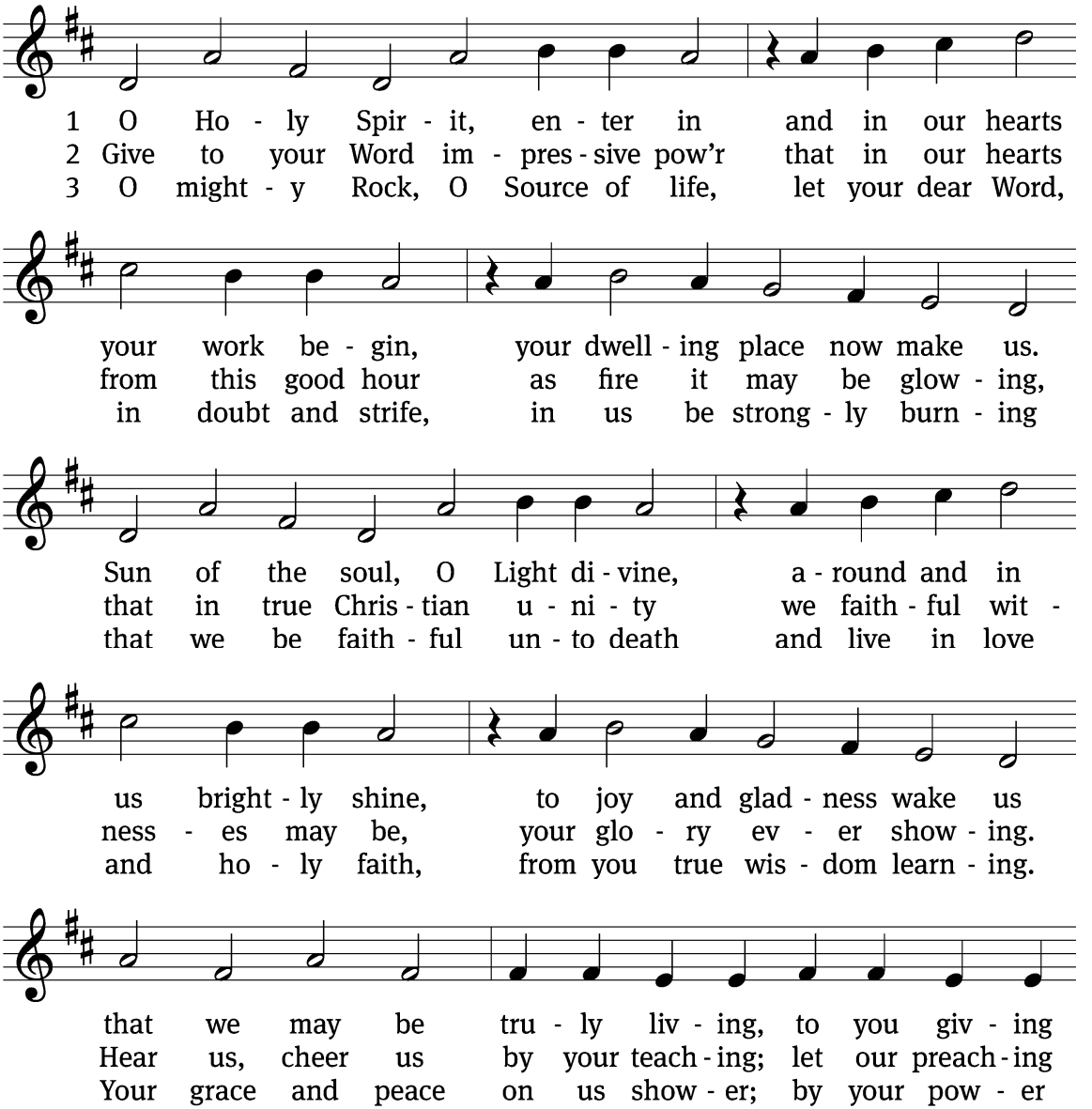
Show friends where you are—check in!
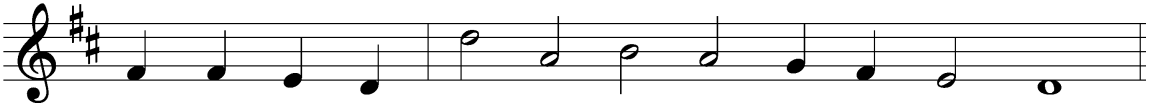
/livinghopechatt

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O Holy Spirit, Enter In

CW 590





Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673, abr., adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, 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

In the name of the Father and of the ┼ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

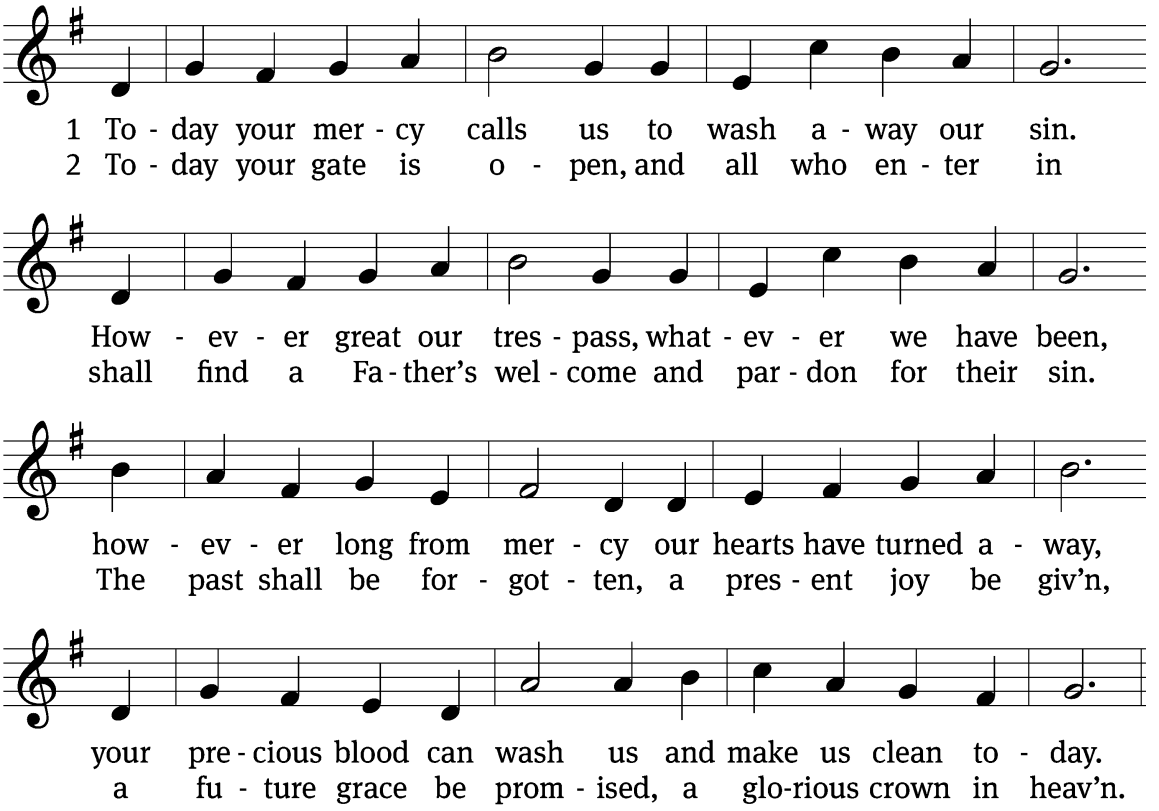
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant.

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 sts. 1–2



Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt.
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 1:10-18

10 Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
11 "The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?" says the LORD.
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
12 When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?
13 Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
15When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

16Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.
17Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.

18"Come now, let us settle the matter,"
says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

Epistle Reading

Romans 12:1–8

1Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

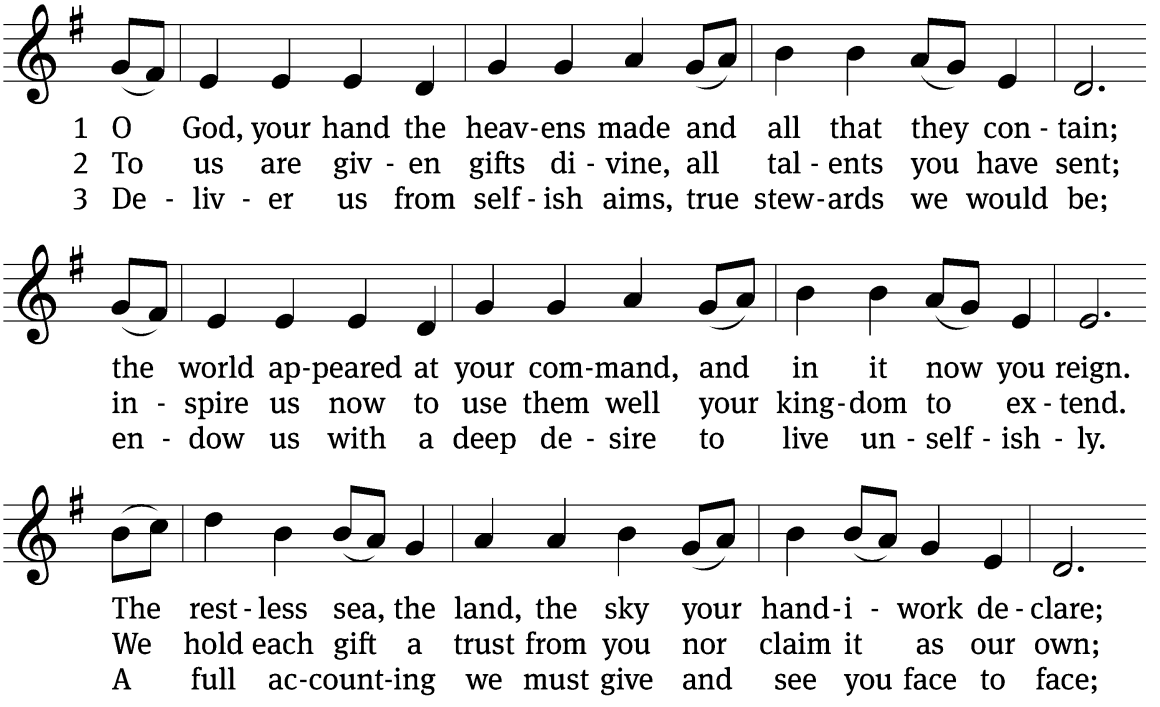
[3]For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. [4]For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5]so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6]We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; [7]if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; [8]if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
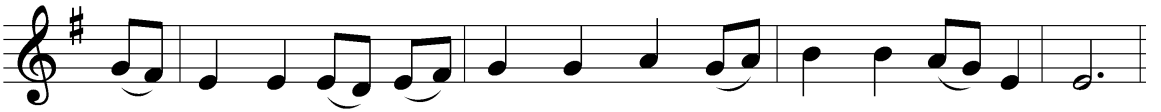
Children's Message

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.

O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made

CW 751





the touch of your cre - a - tive pow'r is pres - ent ev - 'ry - where.
we grate - ful - ly ac - knowl - edge, Lord, all things are yours a - lone.
let us ap - proach your throne with joy, sup - port - ed by your grace.

Text: Frank L. Cross, 1904–2001
Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt.
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Tune: Public domain

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 25:14–30

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and
entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two
bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his
journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his
money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of
gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a
hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled
accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the
other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have
gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been
faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and
share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted
me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been
faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and
share your master's happiness!'

[24]"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25]So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

[26]"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27]Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

[28]" 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. [29]For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. [30]And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Faithfully Serve the Faithful Master

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. How does our culture define a good worker?

2. What mission has Jesus given his followers?

3. Why can God expect us to use our gifts to serve him?

4. God has given us different gifts because the work he has in mind for each of us is _____.

5. Why don't we have any real excuses for unfaithful service?

6. Why is it unhelpful to compare your service to others?

7. Jesus isn't delighted by the 'how much', he is delighted by _____.

8. Why can you be confident Jesus will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" to you?

9. How can you find joy in serving Jesus?

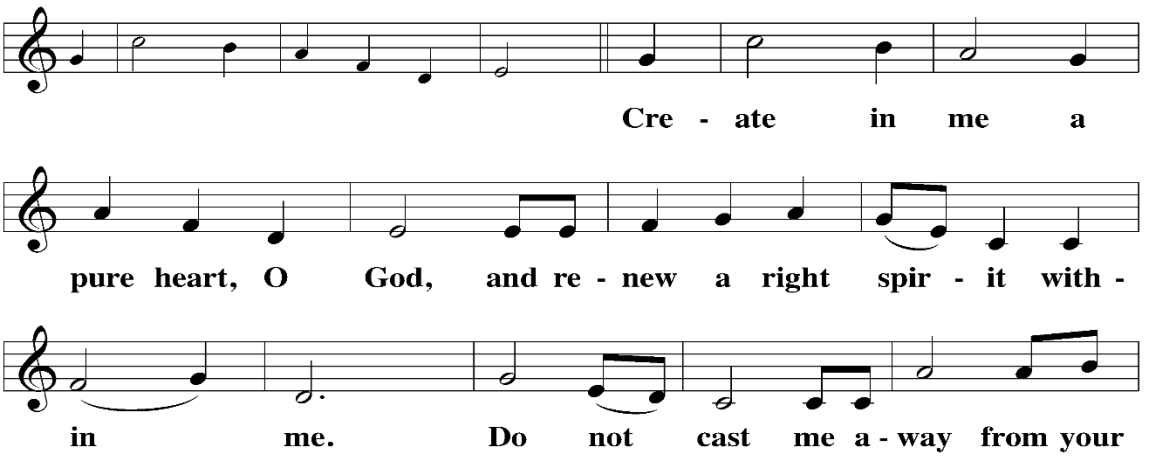
10. Why is it important to faithfully serve Jesus while he is 'away'?

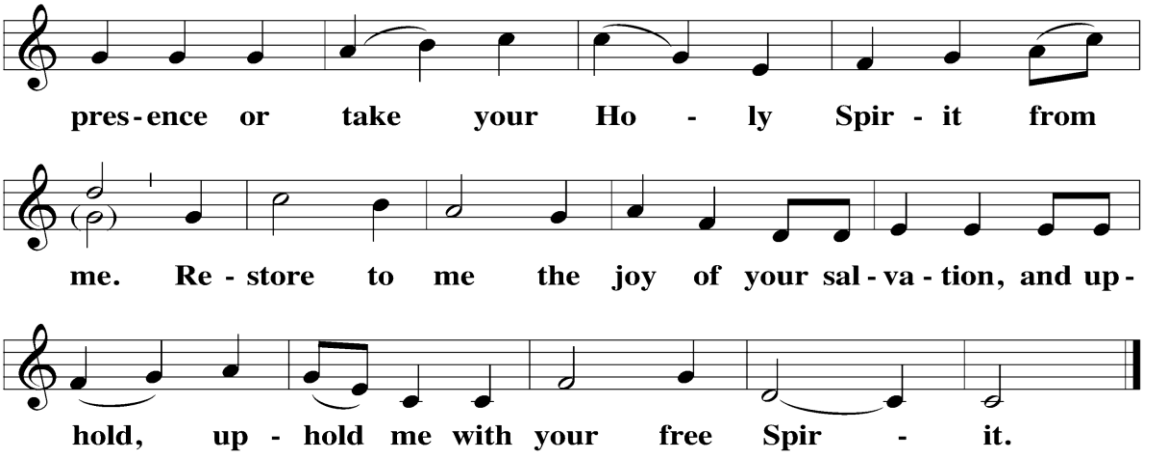
Discussion questions:

1. Many people read this parable as a general lesson on work ethic – encouraging us to be industrious with our jobs, money, and daily life. How does that differ from reading it as specifically talking about Christ's kingdom, and what do you think points us toward that view?
2. Think of the gifts God has put in your life? What are some ways you might, or already are, use them faithfully?
3. What do you think some of the most common excuses are for unfaithful service? What is Jesus's answer to them?
4. After hearing this parable, you might assume that only pastors and teachers are truly using their gifts for faithful service. What does the Bible teach about how non-called workers faithfully serve?
5. What do you think Jesus means by what he says in verse 29?

Please Stand

Create In Me





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

Lord God, from whom all blessings flow, we praise you for everything you provide to sustain our lives. Lead us every day to be thankful for your gifts and content with what you have given. Today we pray that you would guide us to manage your blessings wisely for the good of your kingdom.

As we use your gifts to meet our needs, move us also to support the ministry of the gospel with our offerings.

Before your Son ascended to your throne, he called us to preach the good news to every creature. In grace you created the public ministry so that we may answer his call by sending others in our place.

Impress on us the immense importance of the task you have given us to proclaim your Word to the world.

In our words and in our offerings, move us to be faithful witnesses of your grace.

Work in our hearts so that our gifts do more than support a cause or meet a need. Move us to give out of love for you, our King and Redeemer.

Lead us to bring our gifts first to honor you, the Giver of all things.

Teach us to give as an ongoing part of life since the work of the gospel continues every day. Forgive us for the sins of apathy and carelessness and for giving that reacts only to urgent pleas or crises.

Help us see the wisdom of planning our offerings as a regular routine of our faith.

Teach us to determine our offerings in view of your blessings to us. The widow's coins were meager, but they were all she had. Move us to believe that to whom much is given, much is also expected.
Give us courage to bring gifts that reflect your gifts to us.

Teach us to give our offerings as a cheerful response of our faith in you and your Son. Spare us all feelings of obligation or resentment as we give. Help us to see our offerings as the vehicle that carries the gospel to the lost, and lead us to rejoice with the angels of heaven over every sinner who repents.
Help us to balance our duty to give with the joy of giving.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Precious Lord, all our blessings come from you. Lead us again and again to thank you and then move us to be wise and faithful stewards of your gifts. May our gifts and offerings bring souls here and far away to the gracious gift of Jesus and his love.
Lord, hear us and grant us this blessing. 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.

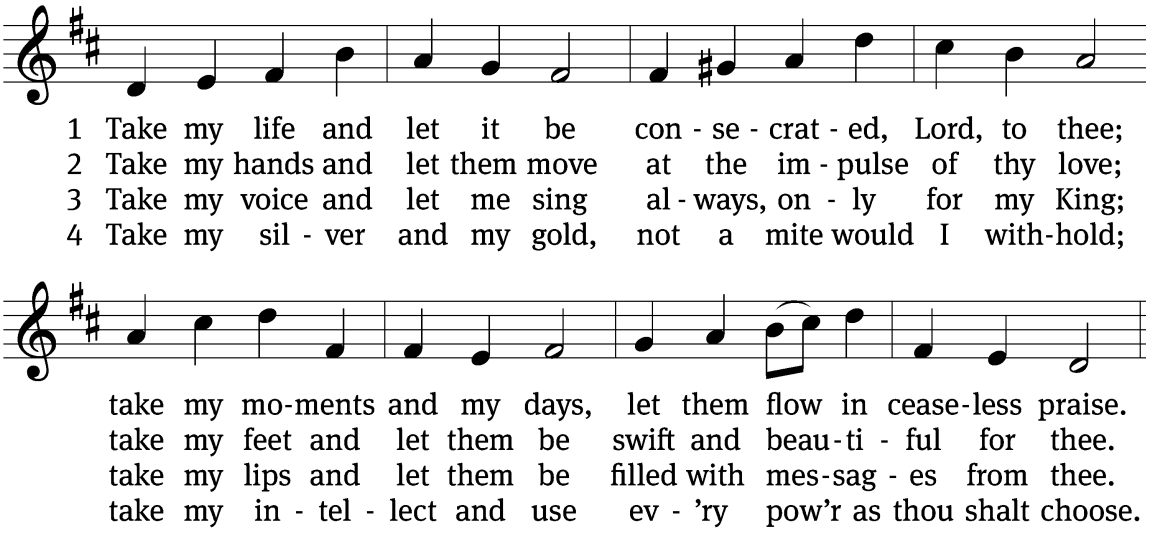
The historical "blessing of Aaron" (Numbers 6:24-26) has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695



5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current worship series - The Beginning of the End. "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.

Next week: It's Time to Love Our Neighbors

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Pastor Eric Melso; presiding—Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; preaching
Mark Hennings; piano

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

"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.

Visits with Vicar

Stop by the fellowship board at church to sign up to host Vicar Michael for a meal! This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know him better and share a little Southern hospitality. You can either host him in your home for a home-cooked meal or treat him to your favorite local restaurant! You're also welcome to invite vicar over even if you're not providing a meal.

vicar@livinghopechatt.com (208) 972-2319

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. A new session of Foundations will begin today. It will take place at the same time as Sunday Study and Sunday School. Online sessions are also available. Message pastor for a class link.

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.

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 Nov 19)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting Wed Nov 18)
- 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 17 @ 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

Service Group - The Common Table - Wednesday November 18 @ 7:00PM

This new small group is community service focused and all about learning to love our neighbors well. The group will explore what it means to be good neighbors and how our church can serve our community well. We'll discuss real needs, wrestle with what truly helps, and work together to plan meaningful community service projects. Come with your questions and ideas and leave better equipped to serve wisely and love your neighbors well. Everyone is welcome! The group will meet at church. Questions? Contact Sarah Dyer at 618-604-0779

Service Group—Hands of Hope - Thursday November 19 @ 10:00AM

This is a service focused group with members working together to clean and maintain our church facilities, as well as supporting other small projects. The group will meet twice a month on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. (for approximately 2 hours or less) and is open to all members: retired, near-retired, or anyone who has free time! This is a budgeted group, so in addition to the work time there will be a time of fellowship with lunch provided afterward at a restaurant.
Contact coordinator: Gretchen Bassett, 423-584-1981 (gretchen.bassett@gmail.com)

Fellowship Group—"The Road to Emmaus"—TBD

A new fellowship focused group to take advantage of Chattanooga's incredible hiking trails. Enjoy some fresh air, great views and the company of your fellow believers. We will set our own pace in a laid-back group hike that hopefully gives you the opportunity to meet and get to know the people of Living Hope better, all while enjoying God's wonderful creation. Message Vicar Michael if you are interested and want more information.

Contact coordinator: Michael Zimpelmann (vicar@livinghopechatt.com)

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Ember Turner 11/15
Tristan Murray 11/16
Sarah Dyer 11/19
Derek Kilberg 11/19
Jameson Falls 11/20

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder
Snack Provider— Hansen, Frederickson
Ushers—Gorman, Simpson
Acolyte—Sam Hynson

Service Teams — Next week Nov. 22

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman
Snack Provider— Cundiff, Chandler
Ushers—Frizzell, Hansen
Acolyte—Silas Dyer

Pastor Eric Melso
pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com
www.livinghopechatt.com

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling.

LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOPE FOR EVERYDAY