

March 29, 2026

**Palm Sunday**



**A God Willing to Humble Himself**

**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: Exactly What I Need**

"I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

### **Today's Focus: A God Willing to Humble Himself**

God is too holy and too perfect for me. His glory would overwhelm me. And because of my sin I should have no right to stand before him or see him. But this is the greatest wonder of all: God does exactly what I need him to do. He humbles himself. God want me to know him and he wants me to know his heart for me. So he comes down into my world as Jesus. He empties himself of glory and power so that he can be a servant of all—even giving himself to death on a cross. In Christ I see the truth. God loves me and is willing to humble himself, to stoop down to me when I could not rise to him.



**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](http://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



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,
- 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore you went;
- 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.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
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

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

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's passion. Today we come together to begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion his entry that culminated at the empty tomb and follow him with a lively faith. United with him by Baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1:8-9*

**For the wrong we have done, and all the good we have failed to do;**

**for angry deeds, for hurtful words, for uncharitable thoughts;**

**for self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness;**

**for longing to have what is not ours,**

**and for failing to give thanks for what is ours;**

**for those sins we do not even remember committing:**

**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313 sts. 1, 3-4



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751, abr., alt.  
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GOD'S WORD

### Old Testament Reading

*Zechariah 9:9–10*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

### Psalm

*Psalm 24:7–10*

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

**that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,

**that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

**The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

*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

## **Gospel**

*Matthew 21:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying 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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>“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.’ ”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The 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!”

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

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

The gospel of the Lord  
**Praise be to Christ!**

*Please be seated*

## 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.

### 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

## Sermon Reading

Philippians 2:5–11

<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own  
advantage;

<sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### A God Willing to Humble Himself

#### Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. Jesus came to earth not just to *share* in our pain but to \_\_\_\_\_ our pain.
2. What is the reaction to seeing God in all his glory?
3. How does Jesus change the way we describe God?
4. What do we come to understand due to the fact that God came to be “with us”?

5. How did Jesus “humble himself” while still being 100% God?
6. What was Jesus willing to do in order to prove God’s heart is for us?
7. Because Christ humbles himself for us, what is our response?

**My sermon notes:**

*Please stand*

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

CW 617

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois 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

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who are at the beginning: those who are starting new jobs, those who are moving, and those who are welcoming new children.

**Bless them, O Lord.**

We pray for families: couples who are marrying, women who are pregnant or hoping to become pregnant, couples who are divorcing, the caregivers, and the ones needing care.

**Bless them, O Lord.**

We pray for all who work for justice and for all who seek the truth.

**Bless them, O Lord.**

We pray for the people improving our communities: the blood and organ donors; the educators; the volunteers; and the funders.

**Bless them, O Lord.**

We pray for the people who feed us: the hands in the fields and on the farms, the hands that package and test foods, and the hands that cook meals.

**Bless them, O Lord.**

We pray for those working in health care and for those in their care, for the hungry, for the disabled, and for those who are healing.

**Bless them, O Lord.**

We pray for those who are at the end: the coming home, the retiring, the grieving, and the dying.

**Bless them, O Lord.**

We thank you for the abundance of grace you give to each of us so that we may share your love with the world.

**Bless us, O Lord. 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.**

## 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.**

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

## In Christ Alone

CW 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my  
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of  
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the  
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -  
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.  
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.  
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!  
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are  
 Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of  
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has  
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in  
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was  
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is  
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.  
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Services

Current worship series - Lent: Exactly What I Need.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

#### Holy Week services:

- Maundy Thursday—April 2 @ 6:30pm
- Good Friday—April 3 @ 6:30pm
- Easter Sunday—April 5 @ 10:00am—Easter Brunch afterward will be potluck style. Please bring something to pass. A sign-up sheet will be sent via text and also placed at the beginning of the snack line. Thanks!

### Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

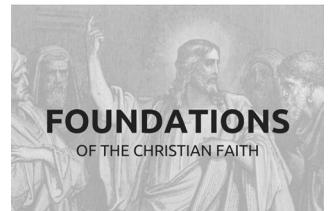
Emily Knutson; piano — Mark Hennings; trumpet

### BBQ Lunch after worship

Plan to stick around after the service today for a FREE lunch catered by the local restaurant *Rib and Loin*! The meal will be served as promptly as possible after the service.

### 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!



New in-person classes are available on Saturdays at 10:30am at church.

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



### **April Fellowship Outing: Lookouts Baseball—Saturday April 18 @ 6:30PM**

We are heading to the Lookouts' opening week at their gorgeous new stadium on Saturday, April 18th, and we want you there with us.

It's going to be a full evening of fun, featuring a pre-game concert to kick off the festivities. Cost is \$12/ticket. We have currently secured a block of 30 tickets, but since it's opening week, they are disappearing fast! If interest exceeds our initial batch, we will do our best to snag more, so don't wait. Want to join the fun? To claim your spot and pay, please call or text Carla at (630) 926-1201

### **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.

### **Members' Minute**

#### Anniversary Blessings:

Steve and Carole Rice—April 4

## SMALL GROUPS

### Living Hope Small Groups

- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Apr 6)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Mar 30)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Apr 9)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Apr 29 at 7pm
- Small Catechism Discussion Group—Saturday evenings online weekly at 8pm
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm (next meeting on Tues Apr 7)

### Women's Small Group—Monday April 6 @ 6:45PM at church

This study is a wonderful way to gather in fellowship and grow in your relationship with God and others through His Word. Please arrive at 6:45 PM for snacks and fellowship; the study will begin at 7:00 PM. (If you had joined us in the past, please note that moving forward we will use Living Hope as our consistent location instead of rotating, and we will have snacks in place of a full meal.) We will continue our study of *In God's Orchard: Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life*. Print outs of the lesson will be available for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Frederickson  
rachel.k.frederickson@gmail.com.

### Living Hope Men's Group—Monday March 30 @ 7:00AM

The new Living Hope 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

### Service Group—"Hands of Hope" - Thursday April 9 @ 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)

### **Life on Mission—Wednesday April 29 @ 7:00PM at church**

"Life on Mission" is a group that will focus on personal witnessing and being an everyday missionary. We tend to think of evangelism as something really scary and outside of our comfort zone but this group will look to highlight, celebrate, and seize the opportunities that God is already placing in front of us every day. The goal is that we will find joy and encouragement as we reach out with Christ's light to the people right in our own backyard.

### **Small Catechism Discussion—Saturdays @ 8:00PM online**

Our member in Taiwan, Julian Chu, will be facilitating an online discussion group that will work through Luther's Small Catechism. The group will meet online using Facebook Messenger and will be using the Luther's Small Catechism book by Concordia Publishing House. Email Julian for a meeting link: [julian1991king@gmail.com](mailto:julian1991king@gmail.com)

Link for book: <https://www.cph.org/luthers-small-catechism-with-explanation-2017-edition>

### **Theology on Tap—Restarts on Tuesday April 7 @ 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**



**HOPE** for everyday people  
**HOPE** for everyday problems  
**HOPE** for everyday unknowns  
**HOPE** for everyday anxiety  
**HOPE** for everyday life

**Service Teams — This week**

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman  
Snack Provider—Catered BBQ meal  
Ushers—Hynson, Mayer  
Acolyte—Emi Ludwig

**Service Teams — Next week Apr 5**

Sunday Setup Team—Smith  
Snack Provider—Easter Potluck  
Ushers—Gorman, Schulz  
Acolyte—Kamarrion McNabb



**LIVING HOPE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HOPE FOR EVERYDAY**

Pastor Eric Melso  
423-933-2452  
pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com  
www.livinghopechatt.com

