

April 12, 2026



The Goal of Every Sermon

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: You Are My Witness

This series for the Easter season focuses on the Acts of the Apostles and their witness to the resurrection of Jesus. The witnessing of Christ didn't stop with those initial eyewitnesses. You and I today are called, too, to be witnesses of Christ by sharing that testimony and the joy and peace of salvation built on it.

Today's Focus: The Goal of Every Sermon

The excitement of Easter Sunday is hard to match. Just days removed from the empty tomb, it's easy to wonder what comes next. Do we move on? Do we look for something new? In Acts 10, the apostle Peter reminds us that the message doesn't change. It doesn't need to. The risen Jesus remains the heart of every sermon, every witness, and every believer's hope. This week, we're reminded that the goal of every sermon is simple yet powerful: to proclaim Christ—who he is, what he's done, and what he gives.



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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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

CW 465



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" saints on
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O



earth and an - gels say. Raise your joys and
fight, the bat - tle won. Lo, our sun's e -
burst the gates of hell. Death in vain for -
death, is now your sting? Once he died our



tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
clipse is o'er; lo, he sets in blood no more.
bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Soar we now where Christ has led,
foll'wing our exalted head.
Made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies!

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to you by both be giv'n!
God has now fulfilled his Word;
praise the resurrected Lord!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.

Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

And also with you.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

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

We are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

As we come into God’s presence, let us confess that often we have lived for ourselves, confident in the forgiveness of him who lived, died, and rose for 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.

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

After his resurrection, Christ commanded his church to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to all nations, promising them that their words were as certain as his. Therefore, it is by Christ's command and with his authority that I say to you: In the name of Jesus your sins are forgiven. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

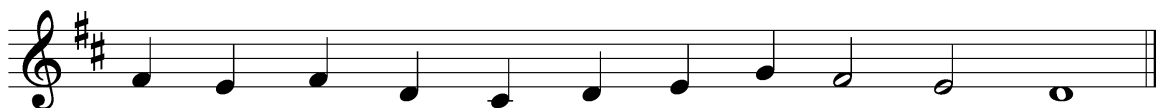
CW 675 sts. 1, 5, 7



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
 5 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, hell's fierce
 7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide
 pow'rs be - neath you lie. You have con- quered in the fight,
 lone can sin de - stroy; from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 you have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
 new - born souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin, c. 4th–10th cent., alt. 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.

Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivanceice, 1566

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

John 20:19–31

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and

stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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.

Good News of God Above

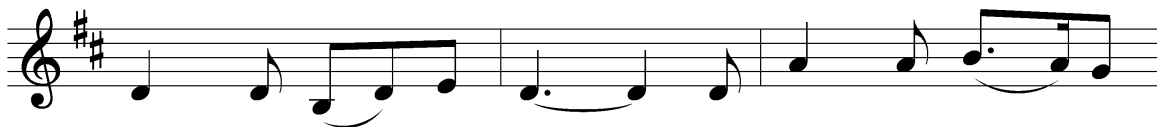
CW 905



1 Good news of God a - bove is ours to tell a -
2 The love of Christ pro - claim, who left his home on
3 The Lord of glo - ry lives! From cross and death and
4 Hear now the Mas - ter's word to those who bear his



broad, the Fa - ther's ev - er - last - ing love in
high; to live our hu - man life he came, our
grave his own a - bun - dant life he gives to
name: "So send I you," till all have heard, "make



Christ the ris - en Lord. For neigh - bors near and
hu - man death to die. The Fa - ther's on - ly
those he died to save. His right - eous - ness and
known, de - clare, pro - claim!" Go forth in all the



far the seed of life is sown; then spread the
Son be - came the sin - ners' friend, our lot to
peace de - clare from sea to sea; his prais - es
earth; em - brace the path he trod with Christ be -



seed by word and deed to make the Sav - ior known.
share, our sin to bear, and death's do - min - ion end.
sound the world a - round for Christ has made us free.
side as friend and guide to bring good news of God.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

Text: © 1988 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

Tune: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

Sermon Reading

Acts 10:34a, 36, 39-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak:

³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁹“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Goal of Every Sermon

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What do you preach after Easter?

2. What does “preach” mean?

3. What is the true goal of preaching?
4. What does Peter's sermon say about who Jesus is?
5. What does Peter's sermon say about what Jesus has done for us?
6. What does Peter's sermon say about what Jesus gives us?
7. What kind of backing does God give his gospel message?
8. In what ways do we "witness"?
9. What's the issue with the ad that says, "Easter; like you've never heard it before"?

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. What is one of the most impactful sermons you've heard in your lifetime? Share what made it impactful or memorable to you.
2. Since preaching is simply heralding/announcing God's message doesn't that mean we should do nothing but read Bible verses instead of having a sermon? Why have sermons?
3. The sermon warns against "moving on" from the gospel to something deeper. Why is that temptation so common in Christian life?
4. As you witness in your life this week, which aspect of Jesus do you feel would be easiest to share with others: 1) who Jesus is 2) what Jesus has done 3) what Jesus gives.
5. Practice summarizing the gospel in one or two sentences. How would you explain it to someone unfamiliar with Christianity?
6. Identify one person each of you can pray for and look for an opportunity to "witness" to this week.

Please stand

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.

Please be seated

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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. 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



2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

6 Now no more can death ap - pall, now no
8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,

more the grave en - thrall; you have o - pened par - a - dise,
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days,

and your saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
Three in One, your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin, c. 4th–10th cent., alt. 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.
Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

CW 444 sts. 1, 4-5



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well noth - ing me from
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death but the gate to



can ap - pall me. Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
him shall sev - er. Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell
life im - mor - tal; this shall calm my trem - bling breath



From the grave Christ will re - call me. Bright - er
part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will
when I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall



scenes will then com - mence; this shall be my con - fi - dence.
be a sure de - fense; this shall be my con - fi - dence.
cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

Text: Christian F. Gellert, 1715-1769, abr.; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - You Are My Witness. This series for Easter season focuses on the Acts of the Apostles and their witness to the resurrection of Jesus. The witnessing of Christ didn't stop with those initial eyewitnesses. You and I today are called, too, to be witnesses of Christ by sharing that testimony and the joy and peace of salvation built on it.

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

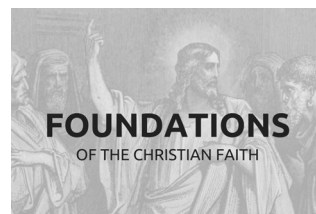
Emily Knutson; piano

Sunday School and Bible Study—off for today

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study for adults will be off for today. Please still feel free to stick around for fellowship and food though!

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



Vicar Request Approved!

This past Tuesday we received the exciting news that Living Hope's request to have a vicar for fall 2026 through summer 2027 has been approved by the Board for Home Missions! A vicar is a 3rd year student from our synod's seminary (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary). The vicar gets to spend a year being mentored and serving in real church situations before returning for one last year of classes. We'll be finding out who is serving here in mid-May and we'll be having a watch-party for the vicar call service here at church on Wednesday May 20th.

Living Hope Small Groups

- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Apr 20)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Apr 13)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Apr 23)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Apr 29 at 7pm
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Theology on Tap—Tuesday April 14 @ 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

Women's Group—Monday April 20 @ 6:45pm

Women's Study is starting a new book, and we would love for you to join us! Come Monday, April 20th as we begin our study of Faith Unleashed: Utilizing Your Spiritual Gifts for Greater Kingdom Impact by Lori Lorig & Marilyn Sievert. Through this study, we will discover how God blessed ordinary people in the Bible to do exceptional things and see how He has uniquely designed each of us for His kingdom. We meet at Living Hope at 6:45pm for snacks and socializing, and the study begins at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there!

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

Birthday Blessings:

Eleanore Kilberg 4/13

Rachel Frederickson 4/14

Sydney Bloedorn 4/15

Derek Knutson 4/16

Brad Thom 4/16

Anniversary Blessings:

Matthew and Melissa Turner 4/12

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Lois Thom — Thanksgiving for successful surgery on brain and optic nerve last Tuesday

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—Baggett, Bloedorn
Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting
Ushers—Frizzell, Ludwig
Acolyte—Ben Schulz

Service Teams — Next week April 19

Sunday Setup Team—Mayer
Snack Provider—Frederickson, Hynson
Ushers—Mayer, Rice
Acolyte—Ember Turner

Pastor Eric Melso

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