

June 29, 2025



Welcome Jesus with Open Arms

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: Undivided Attention

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being "free from distraction." But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be *freed* from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us.

Today's Focus: Welcome Jesus with Open Arms

How do you receive Jesus? During his time on earth, he was received with love by some, and rejected by others. Although his message was good news for all people, some people would rather ignore him than confront their own sin. While we want to be those who receive him with love, a part of us fights back against him and his message. That immature sinful nature wants to focus on the pleasures of life now. But Jesus doesn't let us go that easily. He comes to us with his message of freedom and encourages us to share that same message with others, to help them to welcome Jesus with open arms.



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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Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

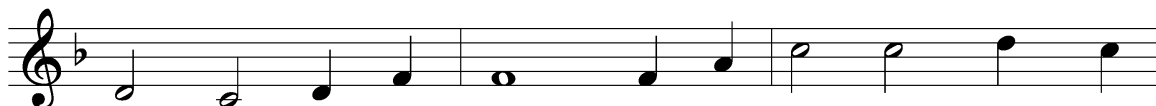
CW 517



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing
 gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the
 in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the
 pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool
 may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing
 wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this
 glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.
 well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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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

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son as the atoning sacrifice for sin. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Glory Be To God On High



1 All glor - y be to God on high! Your name, O
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring, For your great



Lord, we glor - i - fy; We praise you for your
glor - y, heav'n - ly King, For all, O Fa - ther,



peace and grace, Your fa - vor toward our fall - en race.
you have done Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.

Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into this world to destroy the works of the devil and protect us poor people against such an evil foe. Uphold us in all affliction by your Holy Spirit so that we may have peace from such enemies and remain forever blessed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:8–13

⁸Lead out those who have eyes but are blind,
who have ears but are deaf.

⁹All the nations gather together
and the peoples assemble.

Which of their gods foretold this
and proclaimed to us the former things?

Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right,
so that others may hear and say, “It is true.”

¹⁰“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,
“and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,
nor will there be one after me.

¹¹I, even I, am the LORD,
and apart from me there is no savior.

¹²I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—
I, and not some foreign god among you.

You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “that I am God.

¹³Yes, and from ancient days I am he.
No one can deliver out of my hand.
When I act, who can reverse it?”

PSALM OF THE DAY

My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

CW 818



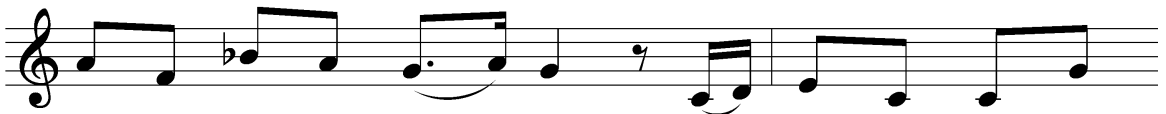
- 1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion;
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp-ta - tions;
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com-plete - ly;



a for-tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be
when e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal -
with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his



shak - en. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and
va - tion. Though rich - es come and rich - es go, don't
mer - cy. Though life is but a fleet - ing breath, a



lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on
set your heart up - on them; the fields of hope in
sigh too brief to mea - sure, my king has crushed the



right - eous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.
which I sow are har - vest - ed in heav - en.
curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

Refrain



Text: Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Epistle Reading

2 Timothy 1:3–10

³I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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.

Rise, Shine, You People

CW 744



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered.
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Please Stand

Sermon Reading

Luke 8:26–39

²⁶They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” ²⁹For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

³⁰Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

³²A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. ³³When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Welcome Jesus with Open Arms

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. Why wouldn't my brother want that needle out of his hand?
2. What was controlling the man in the reading?
3. What kind of demons possess us?
4. How was the reaction of the townspeople in the reading almost childish?
5. Why did they want Jesus to leave?
6. What are some reasons we may want Jesus to leave?
7. What chains does Jesus break?
8. What do we do once we're free from our chains?
9. Where is the most natural place to spread the Gospel?
10. The Gospel message is telling what _____ did for _____.

Discussion questions:

for theology on tap

1. Can you name any reasons why we might be “afraid” to receive help from God?
2. List some ways people tend to react to Jesus today.
3. What is the significance of the man sitting at Jesus’ feet before telling others about him? How might that apply to us?
4. What are some ways to talk about what Jesus has done for **you**?

Please stand

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my hope's foun -
da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, alt.

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

Father in heaven, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to bring peace and hope to our fallen world. Already in eternity you planned to overturn the tyranny of Satan and the ravages of sin and you kept your promises to restore the perfection of paradise.

Lead us to cherish your great mercy and hold to it as our priceless treasure.

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise and adore you for offering your perfect life and innocent death to redeem the world from death and hell. You proclaimed the good news that sins are forgiven and life with God is restored and you called your followers to share the gospel with all people.

Make us bold and confident to be witnesses to family and friends we know and love.

Holy Spirit, Lord, and giver of life, through Word and sacrament you create and strengthen faith that trusts the promise of the Father and the work of his Son. You break down the barriers of resistance and rejection and bring the lost into the family of God.

Empower and encourage us to speak about Jesus to neighbors and acquaintances.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, move us by your great love to enter the mission fields near our homes and neighborhoods. Help us always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.

Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we share the love of 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.

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.

There Is One Gospel

by City Alight

There is one Gos - pel on which I stand for
is one Gos - pel to which I cling, all
is one Gos - pel where hope is found, the

all else e - ter - ni - ty. It is my sto - ry, my
emp - ty I count as loss. For there, where jus - tice and
For death could not keep my

Fa - ther's plan, the Son has res - cued me.
mer - cy meet, He saved me on the cross.
Sav - iour down, He lives and I am free.

Oh, what a Gos - pel, oh what a peace. My high - est joy and my
No more I boast in what I can bring, no more I car - ry the
Now on my Sav - iour I fix my eyes, my life is His and His

deep - est need. Now and for - ev - er, He is my light. I
weight of sin. For He has brought me from death to life. I
hope is mine. For He has pro - mised I too, will rise. I

stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.
stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.
stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.

And in this Gos-pel, the church is one, we
do not walk a-lone. We have His Spi-rit as we press on to
lead us safe-ly home. And when in glo-ry still I will sing
of this old sto-ry that res-cued me. Praise to my Sav-iour, the
King of life. I stand in the Gos-pel of Je-sus Christ.

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Worship series - Undivided Attention: We need to be freed from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us.

Next Week— Undivided Attention on the Want for Workers

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Mark Hennings; piano

Sunday School and Bible Study—off for the month of July

Our Sunday school and adult Bible study will be off for the next few weeks. Stay tuned for when we re-launch in August!

Theology on Tap—Tuesday July 1 @ 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



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.



Summer Safari Camp—Thank you!

Our Safari/science-themed Bible camp this past week was a success! All the kids and parents said they enjoyed it and we had a great team of volunteers who deserve a ton of thanks for their hard work and dedication to making the camp great for all in attendance. Thank you!!

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—Tuesdays at 7pm (sermon discussion group)
- Women's Group—Mondays every other week—**next session—Mon. June 30**
- Book of Concord Discussion—Wednesdays at 7pm (online group)

Special Door Offering

This week and the next we'd like to collect a special door offering to support and say thank you to both Vicar David Rutschow and the team of ladies from Martin Luther College who helped run our Safari Camp (Ella, Elise, Madelyn, Madden). All these young people have decided to serve full-time in the ministry and we'd love to be able to support them in their studies going forward.

If you'd like to give an extra thank offering for David and the MLC team you can leave an envelope in the Living Hope bucket at the exit today. Please note how you'd like your offering designated. You can also give online and just add a note that it's the door offering for Vicar and the MLC team. If you have any questions, just ask Pastor. Thanks for supporting our future called workers!

Host Vicar David for a meal

One of the best things for a seminarian to take part in is simply talking with people and getting to know them! Vicar David would love the chance to get to know your family and we'd also love to help out those who are hosting him this summer by allowing others to provide a meal for him. Feel free to host him for lunch or dinner. There's a physical sign up sheet out in the lobby or you can sign up using the form you should have received in your inbox a few weeks back. Thanks for taking the time to get to know David!

It's hard to believe this is already David's final week here at Living Hope! If you haven't signed up to host him for a meal yet this will be your last chance to do so before he heads up to Crossville for the rest of summer.

Volunteer Painters Needed! - Saturday July 19 @ 8:30am

We're looking for 1 to 2 more volunteers who'd be willing to help with the painting project for the classroom on the far end of our building. This is the first room we're prepping in order to begin our SpaceTogether effort. We hope to rent this room out to various local organizations/businesses in order to better utilize our awesome facility during the week, connect with new people, and even give us a little bit of financial aid as well.

The primer will already be applied so all that's needed is taping and painting. If interested please speak with Brad Thom — secretary@livinghopechatt.com

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 Outing—Day at the Bay—Saturday July 26 @ 12:00PM—5:00PM

Our fifth annual Day at the Bay fellowship event will be on July 26 at Chester Frost park starting at 12:00pm. Come for some food, games, boat rides, tubing and swimming! Bring a dish to pass and Living Hope will provide the grilled meats, chips, and water. We could use some volunteers to help with the setup and takedown of the event. Find more info and sign up on the bulletin board in the gathering area.

7872 Causeway Road—Hixson, TN Shelter #3

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

6-29- Kagon Talley

7-5- Eric Marshall

Anniversary Blessings:

6-29- Brad and Lois Thom

7-6- Chuck and Mary Snyder

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Thom
Snack Provider—Schmidt, Turner
Ushers—Lundquist, Mayer
Acolyte—Benjamin Schulz

Service Teams — Next week July 6

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder
Snack Provider—Bassett / Dyer
Ushers—Open
Acolyte—Lydia Dyer

Pastor Eric Melso

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WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



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HOPE FOR EVERYDAY