

August 17, 2025



The Gospel Has Side-Effects

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: Wounds That Heal

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Today's Focus: The Gospel Has Side-Effects

This is a good text to kick off our new sermon series because it's a great example of what we're talking about here with the phrase "wounds that heal." The Gospel message is the one cure that will work for our souls but at times even that good news, that good medicine, of Jesus will come with side-effects: difficulties we'll have to face as a follower of Jesus. Hard truths that we'll need to embrace along the way. It's almost like the gospel message has a side-effect warning written on the label by Jesus. Today it says, "Warning! Participating in the gospel of Jesus may lead to strong feelings of division and lack of peace in the world for you."



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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

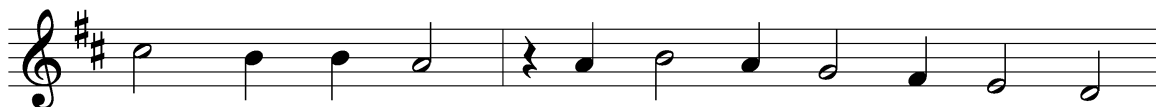
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O Holy Spirit, Enter In

CW 590



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in and in our hearts
2 Give to your Word im - pres - sive pow'r that in our hearts
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your dear Word,



your work be - gin, your dwell - ing place now make us.
from this good hour as fire it may be glow - ing,
in doubt and strife, in us be strong - ly burn - ing



Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, a - round and in
that in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty we faith - ful wit -
that we be faith - ful un - to death and live in love



us bright - ly shine, to joy and glad - ness wake us
ness - es may be, your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.
and ho - ly faith, from you true wis - dom learn - ing.



that we may be tru - ly liv - ing, to you giv - ing
Hear us, cheer us by your teach - ing; let our preach - ing
Your grace and peace on us show - er; by your pow - er



prayer un - ceas - ing and in love be still in - creas - ing.
and our la - bor praise you, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.
Christ con - fess - ing, let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

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

This is what the Lord says – “I am he who blots out your transgressions and remembers your sins no more.”

Isaiah 43:25

He does not stay angry forever but delights to show mercy.

He will have compassion on us and tread our sins underfoot.

Micah 7:18,19

He will hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1,2

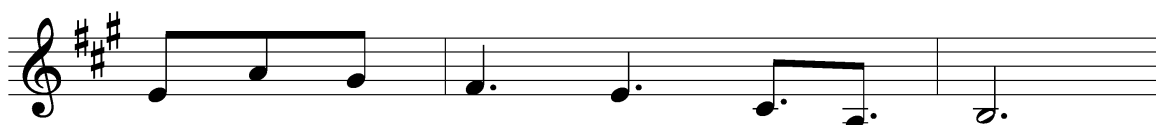
Therefore, at Christ's command and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

Reformation Song

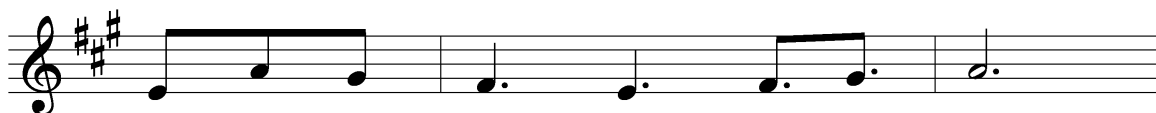
CW 877 sts. Ref, 3-4



3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



his right - eous - ness is all our plea.
all that we are has come from you.



Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



his per - fect work has set us free.
now by your pow'r have been made new.



Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; 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

Jeremiah 23:23–29

²³“Am I only a God nearby,”

declares the LORD,

“and not a God far away?

²⁴Who can hide in secret places

so that I cannot see them?”

declares the LORD.

“Do not I fill heaven and earth?”
declares the LORD.

²⁵“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ ²⁶How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? ²⁷They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. ²⁹“Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 12:1–13

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

⁶because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³“Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

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.

If God Himself Be for Me

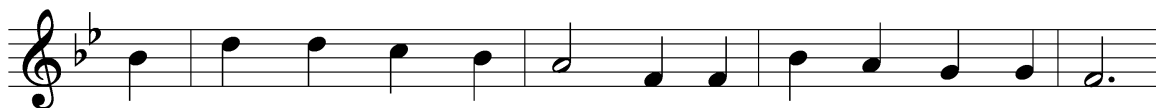
CW 819 sts. 1–3, 5, 7



1 If God him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;
 2 This I be - lieve, yea rath - er, of this I make my boast,
 3 I build on this foun - da - tion, that Je - sus and his blood
 5 Now no one can con-demn me or set my hope a - side;
 7 My heart for joy is spring - ing and can no more be sad;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con-found - ed, fly.
 that God is my dear Fa - ther, the friend who loves me most,
 a - lone are my sal - va - tion, my true, e - ter - nal good.
 now hell no more can claim me, its fu - ry I de - ride.
 my soul is filled with sing - ing, sees on - ly sun - shine glad.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,
 and that, what - e'er be - tide me, my Sav - ior is at hand
 With - out him all that pleas - es is val - ue - less on earth;
 No sen - tence now re - proves me, no guilt de - stroys my peace,
 The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my King;



what foe or what dis - as - ter can drive me from his love?
 thro' storm - y seas to guide me and bring me safe to land.
 the gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone have price - less worth.
 for Christ, my Sav - ior, loves me and shields me with his grace.
 the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; (sts. 1, 5, 7): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book, 1907; (sts. 2–3): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887
 Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

Sermon Reading

Luke 12:49–53

⁴⁹ “I came to throw fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already ignited.
⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished!
⁵¹ Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² Yes, from now on there will be five divided in one household: three against two, and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided: father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

EHV

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

The Gospel Has Side-Effects

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What is the side-effect warning on the gospel label in this text?
2. What 3 words do we need to make sense of here?
3. Is fire good or bad?
4. So what is the “fire” Jesus talks about here?
5. What is this “baptism” Jesus has to undergo and why is he distressed by it?

6. What word here ties into Jesus' words from the cross?
7. What will the gospel inevitably do?
8. What kind of peace did Jesus *not* come to give? What peace *does* he give?
9. What specific division within families is referred to here?
10. What is the greatest danger for us as Christians here?
11. In what way does Jesus bring about peace for us? (*Hint: not by compromising*)
12. What are some other *positive* side-effects of the gospel?

Discussion questions:

(*For Theology on Tap*)

1. How do the other two readings in the service help clarify what the “fire” is that Jesus talks about?
2. Name some ways this text helps you think more seriously about the relationships in your life.
3. List some other negative side-effects, besides division, that apply as you live with faith in Jesus. Then list some of the many positive side-effects of being a follower of Jesus.
4. Jesus won't make compromises—in what ways does that statement unsettle you? In what ways does that statement comfort you?

Please stand

Create in Me A Pure Heart, O God

The musical score is written on six staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the final staff.

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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.**

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 the Church

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones safe from whatever perils may threaten them.

Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.

Oh, How Good It Is

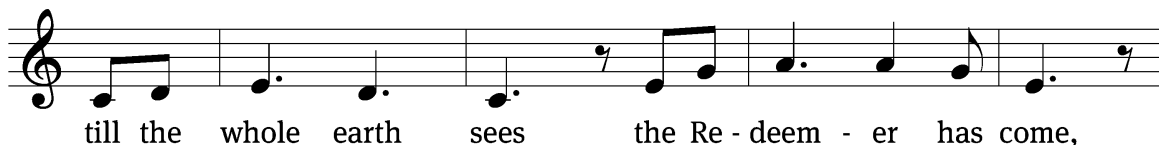
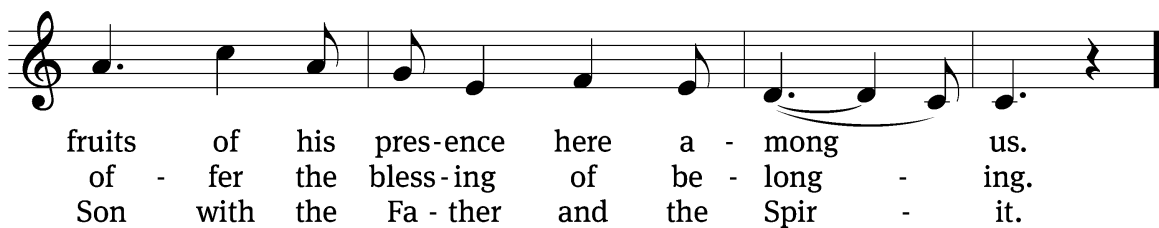
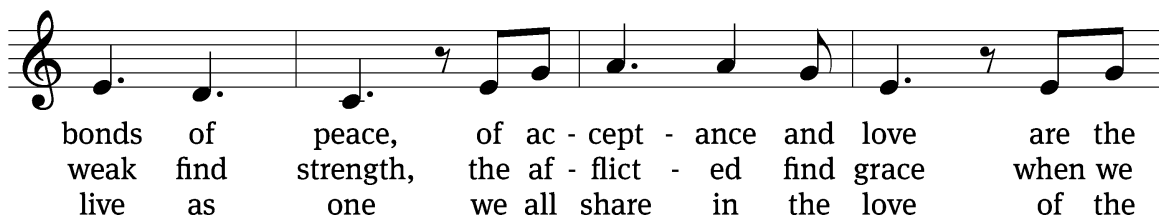
CW 731



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to -
2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share to re -
3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand to pre -



geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty. Where the
joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn. For the
fer one an - oth - er, for - give as he for - gives. When we



Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend
Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - Wounds that Heal. Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Next week: The Door is Very Narrow

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Gretchen Bassett; piano—David Dyer; guitar



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

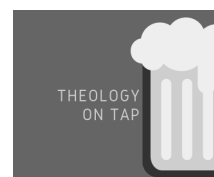
Sunday School for children and Sunday Study for adults both re-launch today. The adults will begin a study on the book of Judges called Broken Saviors as we take a deep dive into a very rich and messy book of the Bible full of applications for us today.

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

Theology on Tap—Tuesday August 19 @ 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.

There are both in-person or online classes available!



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. Aug. 25**
- Book of Concord Discussion—Wednesdays at 7pm (online group)

Cromwell Heights Canvass—Saturday August 30 @ 11:00AM

As a continuation of our congregational discussion last Sunday about welcoming/belonging we'd like to do some canvassing in the neighborhood where we do grocery canvassing. We'll be knocking on doors simply to ask people 1 question: "What would a church need to do to make you feel welcome." This is a great way to find out what would be welcoming to people whom we'd like to have come to Living Hope!

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:

Emily Knutson—August 19

Violet Melso—August 22

Anniversary Blessings:

Ron and Nikki Tarkowski—August 19

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Cindy Millice — hospitalized with breathing issues



Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder
Snack Provider—Hansen, Mayer
Ushers—Hynson, Schulz
Acolyte—Bohdi Turner

Service Teams — Next week

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman
Snack Provider—Living Hope
Ushers—Frizzell, Marshall
Acolyte—Lydia Dyer

Pastor Eric Melso

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