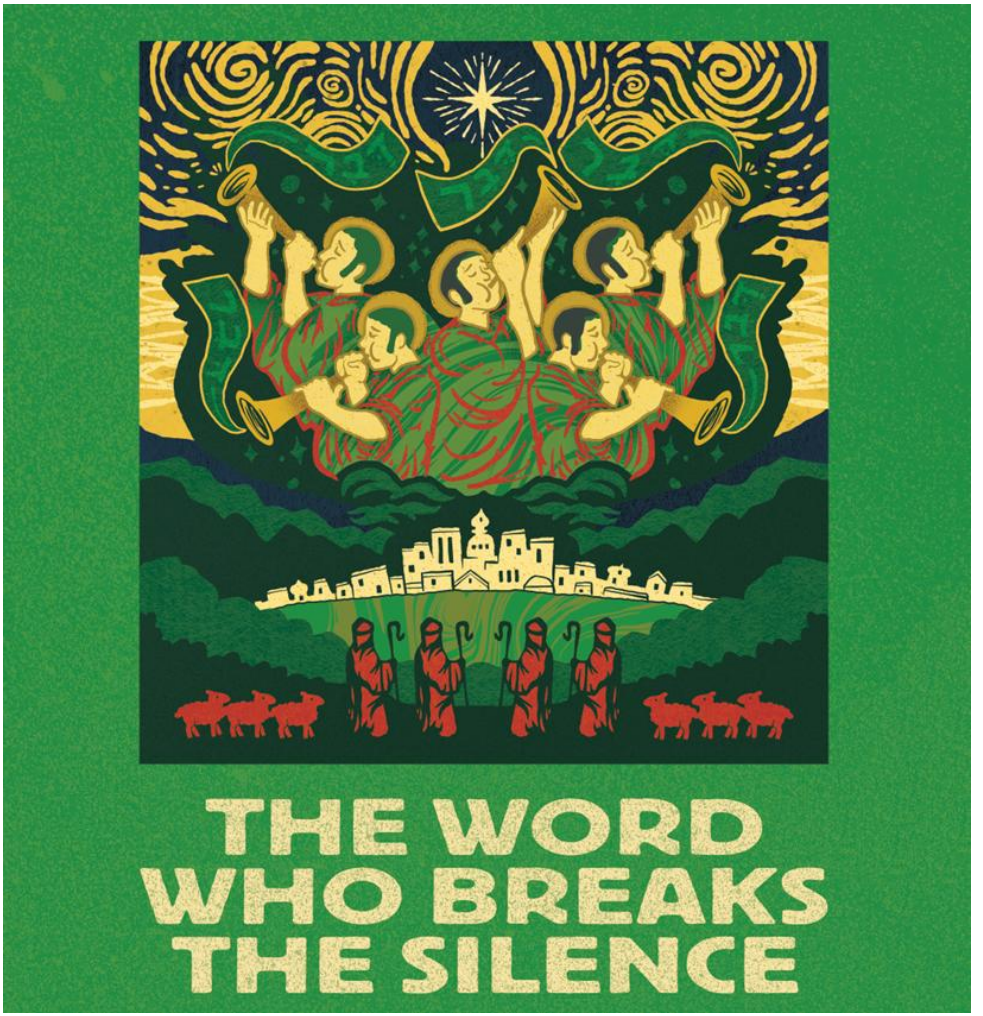
November 29, 2026



The Word that Creates

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to

WORSHIP

We're so glad you decided to worship with us today. You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning, and you chose to spend your time with Living Hope. Thank you! It's an honor to have you here and to have the chance to fill you with hope. Welcome to Living Hope.

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Current Series: The Word Who Breaks the Silence

The season of Advent culminates not in a silent night, but in the boisterous and powerful speech of our Creator. While we would do well to reflect on the moments when he is silent during this season, the moments where we long for his return, we must also remember that we have a God who does not remain silent for long, for his goodness, light, and love are wrapped up in his voice.

Today's Focus: He Spoke… and it came to be

Broken trust is painful. It's unsettling and it fills the world with uncertainty. Everyone has had some experience with having their trust broken. It can leave you wondering, what can I trust? What is true? Today, Psalm Thirty-Three reminds us that when God speaks, you can trust his Word. His Word is the Word that created the universe. His Word is the Word that makes and keeps promise to his people. His Word is different because it is always true. So, when you're feeling uncertain, you can trust this Word.

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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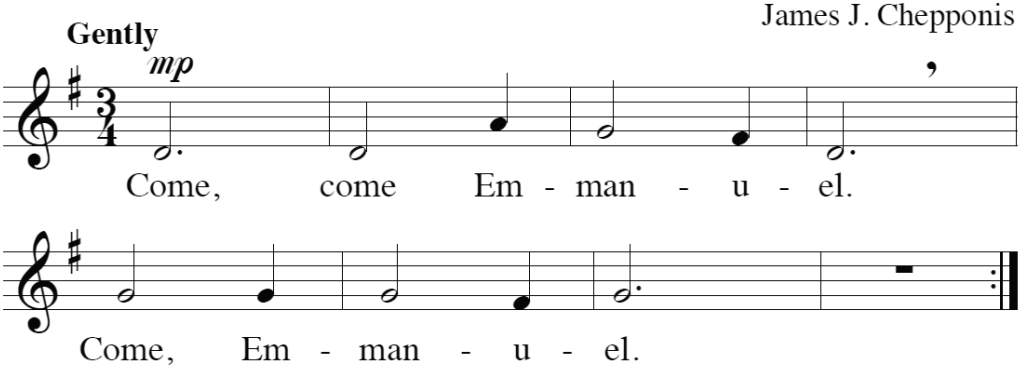
Advent Gathering Song

Cantor sings 1st refrain then the congregation sings the refrain on repeat as the cantor sings the verses.



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1. Our redeemer forever, Oh...
2. We are clay, you are potter, Oh...
3. Rouse your power to save us and...

Music continues to play as the call to worship and confession is spoken.

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.

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

Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

Dear friends, one day Christ will come in glory to deliver his people. Therefore, let us prepare our hearts to meet him by humbly seeking his forgiveness.

Merciful Lord, shine your light into the shadows of our hearts.

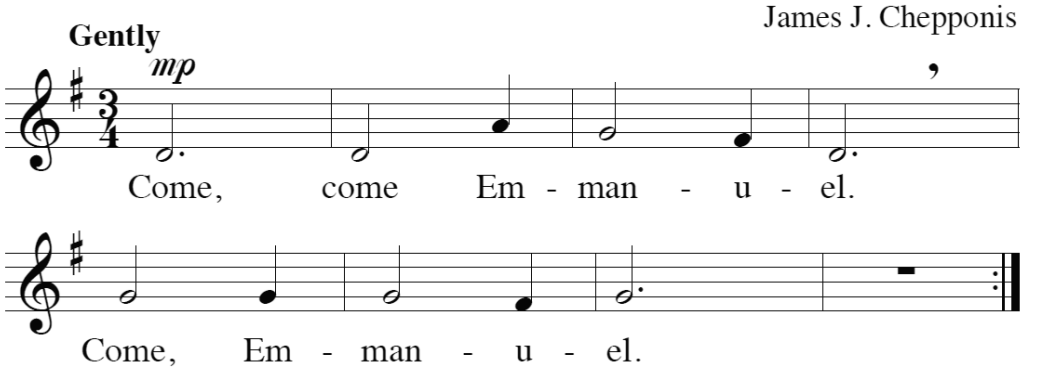
For we have sinned and have failed to honor you as our Righteous Judge.

Chase away our darkness and fill us with your light.

Trusting in you we pray: Lord, have mercy on us.

In Christ Jesus, the glory of the Lord has been revealed and all people have seen the salvation of our God. With his perfect life, Christ kept the law in our place. With his innocent death, he paid the price of our redemption. Christ now comes to you through his words of light and life: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



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4. God will strengthen us always, so...
5. Stay awake and be watchful, Oh...
6. The appointed time will...

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 45:18-19

18 For this is what the LORD says—
he who created the heavens,
he is God;
he who fashioned and made the earth,
he founded it;
he did not create it to be empty,
but formed it to be inhabited—
he says:
"I am the LORD,
and there is no other.
19 I have not spoken in secret,
from somewhere in a land of darkness;
I have not said to Jacob's descendants,
'Seek me in vain.'
I, the LORD, speak the truth;
I declare what is right.

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 1:1–5

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was with God in the beginning. [3]Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. [4]In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. [5]The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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.

Thy Strong Word

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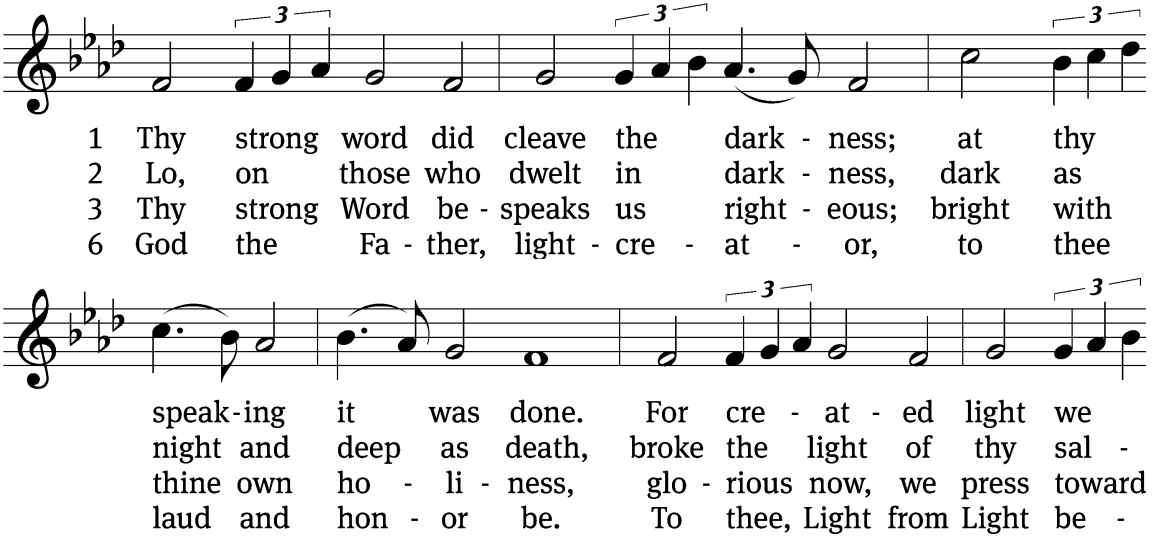

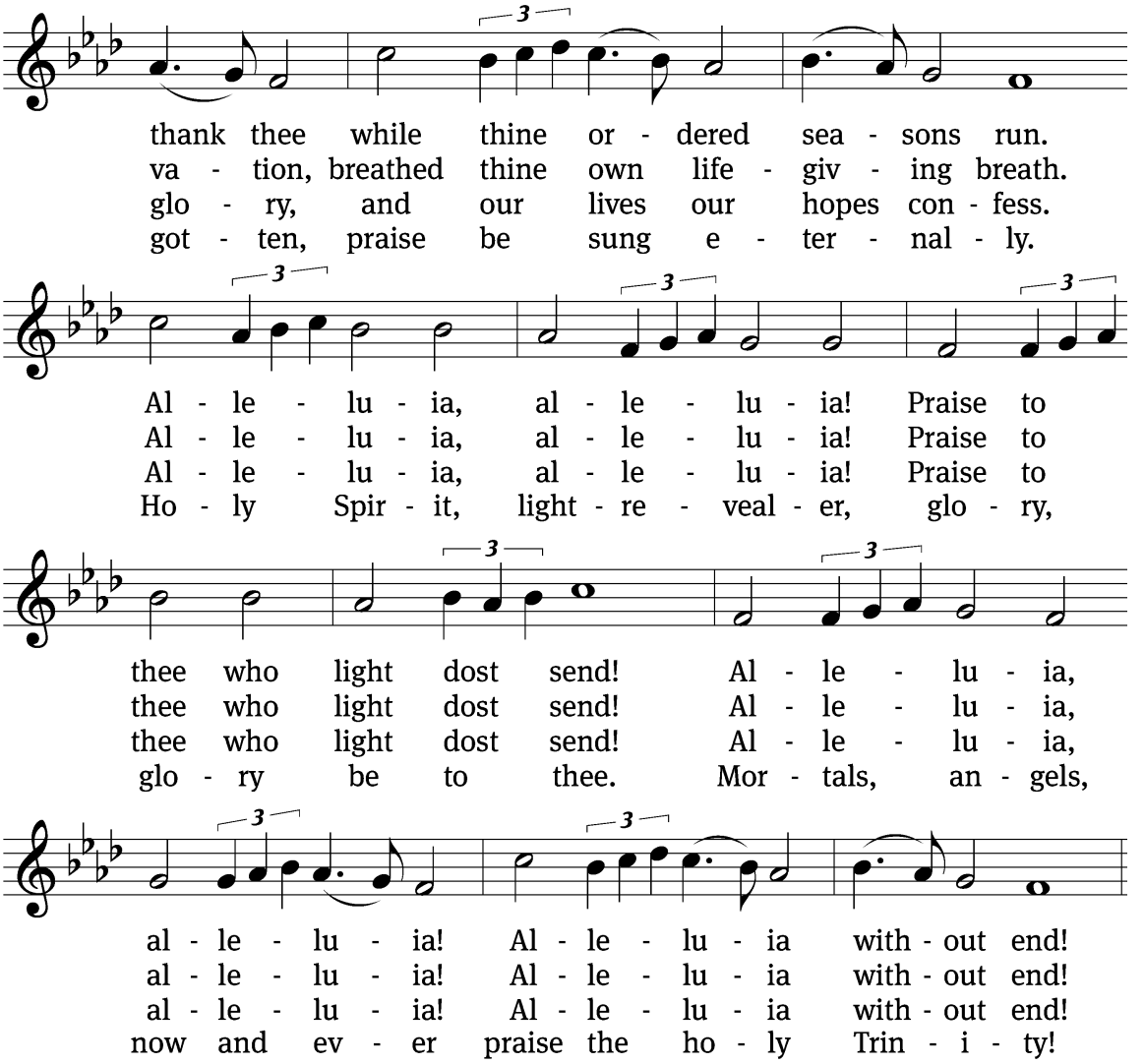

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Sermon Reading

Psalm 33:6–11

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
7 He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.
8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.
9 For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

He Spoke… and it came to be

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What makes God's Word different from an uncertain world?

2. God's Word has the power to _____.

3. Why did Israel (and us) need to be reminded that God's Word is powerful?

4. Why might it be tempting to see God's Word the same way as anyone else's?

5. Seeing God's Word the same way as anybody else's word is a _____.

6. C.S. Lewis's quote highlights what about God's Word?

7. What does Israel's history remind us about God's promises?

8. What is the best proof that God keeps his promises?

9. Why can you be confident that your sins have been forgiven?

10. Why is it important to hear God's promises again and again?

Discussion questions:

1. Where does the world like to put its trust? Where do you?

2. Does knowing that everything besides God's Word has the potential to break your trust mean that we should be cynical about everything?

3. How does knowing that God's Word creates truth change your perspective of it? Of the World? Of yourself?

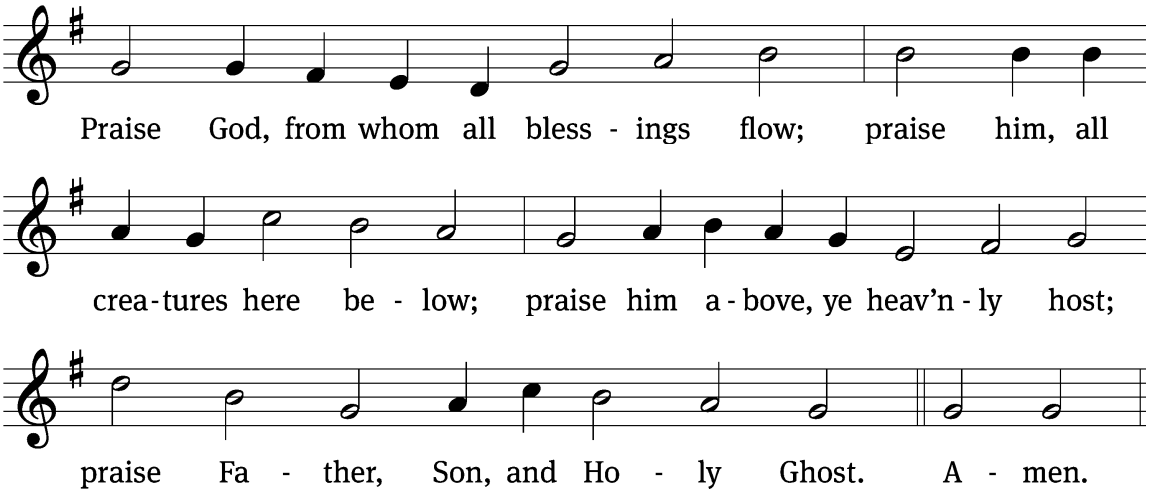
4. What is something that makes it hard to trust God's Word? What is God's answer?

5. Which promises of God do you find especially comforting to turn to?

Please Stand

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

CW 617



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois
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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

Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?

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.

Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?

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!

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

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.
Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.
Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.
Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.
Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.
Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.
May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.
Come, Lord 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.

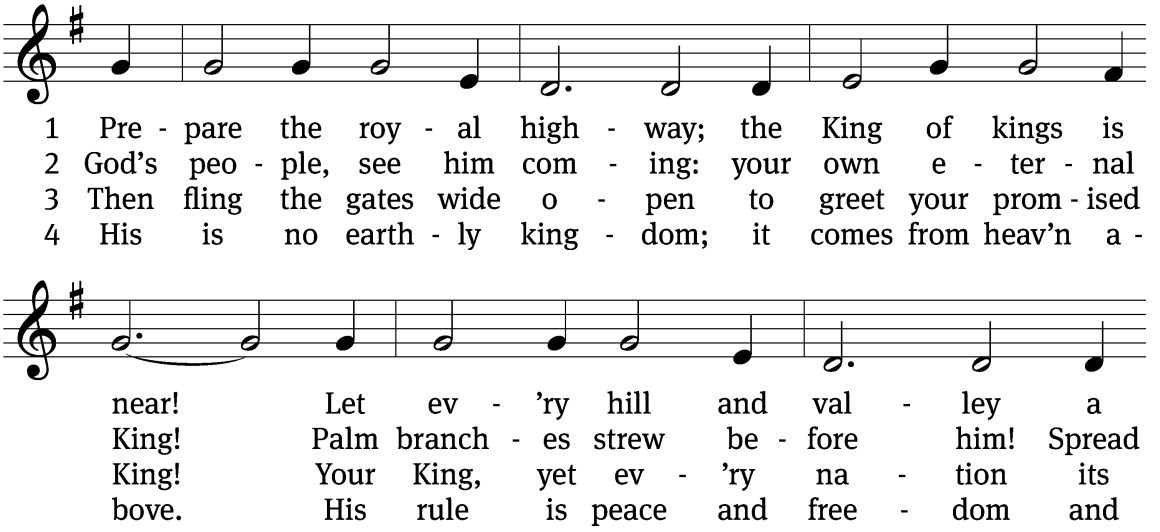
The historical "blessing of Aaron" (Numbers 6:24-26) has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

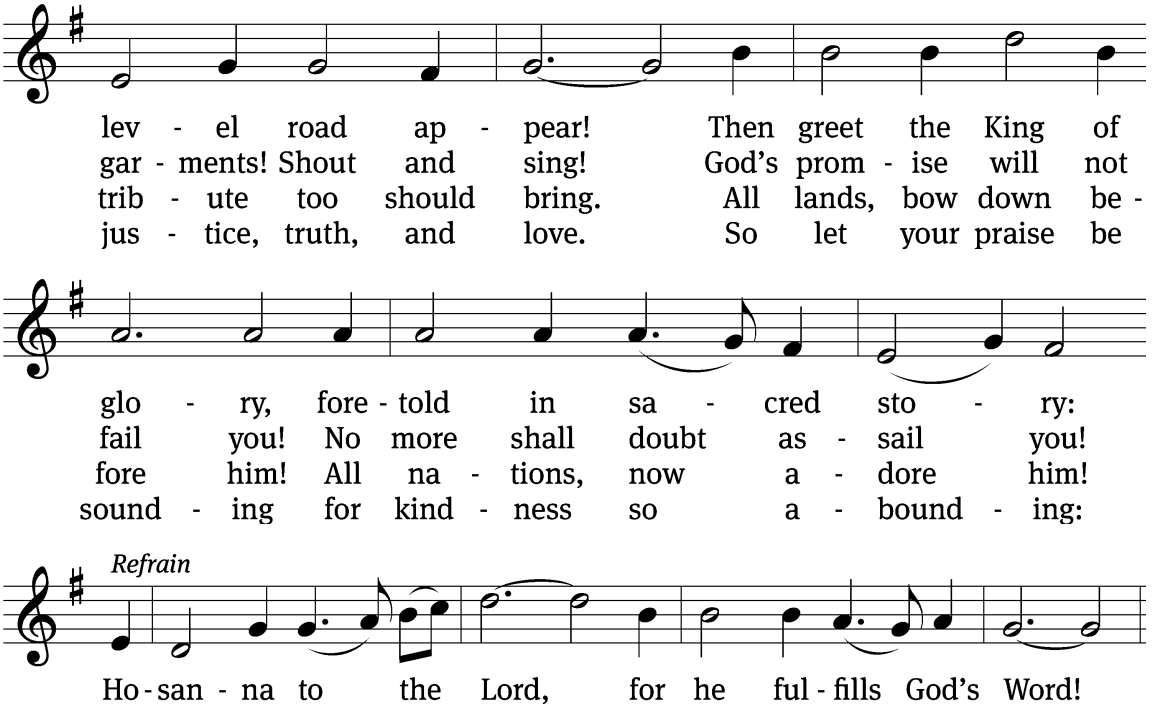
Blessing

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.

Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302





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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - The Word Who Breaks the Silence. The season of Advent culminates not in a silent night, but in the boisterous and powerful speech of out Creator. While we would do well to reflect on the moments when he is silent during this season, the moments where we long for his return, we must also remember that we have a God who does not remain silent for long, for his goodness, light, and love are wrapped up in his voice.

Next week: Our Cries, God's Silence

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Pastor Eric Melso; presiding—Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; preaching
Emily Knutson; piano

Sunday School and Bible Study—Before worship at 9:00 AM

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study takes place before worship. The adults are doing a study on the topic of Sanctification.

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

Christmas Booth at Cambridge Square Ooltewah—Saturday December 5 @ 12PM-8PM

We are thrilled to announce that Living Hope will have a booth at "Once Upon a Christmas at Cambridge Square"! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our neighbors, and invite the community to our upcoming Christmas services.

How You Can Help

- Volunteer at the Booth: We need volunteers to cover shifts throughout the day. Get in touch with Melissa about what time slots we need filled.
- Planning and Decorating: We are also looking for creative minds to help design and decorate our booth to make it warm and welcoming.

If you are interested in helping plan or decorate, please contact Jennifer Melso: (423) 250-4943 or Melissa Turner: (509) 949-6598

Ministry Update Meeting—Sunday December 6th after worship

Our third trimester ministry update will be held in the lobby after worship on December 6th. Join us to get updated on our ministry plans and give the Council of Ministry some input!

Christmas Hymn Sing Fellowship Event—Saturday December 12 @ 5PM-7PM

Join us at church for our 3rd annual December fellowship event as we sing favorite Christmas Carols, share Christmas memories and enjoy some soup and cookies! Bring along a soup and your favorite Christmas cookies to share!

"Doing What We Can Homeless Outreach"—Saturday December 19 @ 5PM-7PM

Living Hope is helping a local nonprofit organization called Doing What We Can Homeless Outreach. They host monthly block parties for our unhoused neighbors.

Our church has the privilege of providing the meal for this event! We are excited for this opportunity to let our light shine with the homeless, even if they are outside of our personal, individual communities.

3 Ways You Can Get Involved:

1. Cook a Casserole: Make a casserole that feeds 10 people (we'll provide the recipe!). Drop it off at the church on Thursday, December 17th to coordinate a drop-off time with our admin assistant, Melissa Turner, at (509) 949-6598.
2. Serve at the Event: Sign up for a 2-hour shift at the block party to mingle and offer a listening ear to attendees.
3. Donate Winter Supplies: We are collecting thermal underwear and 2-to-4 person dome tents to distribute. Contact Lois Thom at (678) 488-1316 for more details.

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!

Online classes are currently available on Thursdays at 5:00pm. Message pastor for a class link.

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Dec 7)
- Women's Group — will resume in 2027
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Dec 3)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting Wed Dec 9)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Dec 16 at 7pm

See more details for these groups at https://livinghopechatt.com/small-groups

Men's Group—Monday December 7@ 7:00AM

Men's group will be meeting every other Monday morning at 7am at Panera Bread on Gunbarrel Rd. The group will discuss a wide variety of topics that address men living as citizens of the kingdom of heaven in a fallen world. Men of all ages are invited.
Panera Bread—1810 Gunbarrel Road—Chattanooga, TN 37421
Contact coordinator: Mike Frederickson (mfrederickson20@outlook.com)

Theology on Tap—Tuesday December 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

Service Group—"Hands of Hope" - Thursday December 3 @ 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)

The Common Table - Wednesday December 9 @ 7:00PM

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

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:

Bob Phinizy—12/2

Anniversary Blessings:

Ted and Claudia Bunting—12/5

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Smith
Snack Provider— Hynson, Mayer
Ushers—Smith, Murray
Acolyte—Emi Ludwig

Service Teams — Next week Dec 6

Sunday Setup Team—Mayer
Snack Provider—Basset, Dyer
Ushers—Gorman, Simpson
Acolyte—Kamarrion McNabb

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

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

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.