**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, January 17th, 2021 at 10:45 AM**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Call to Worship Song** – The Risen Christ (O Breath of God Come Fill This Place)

**Call to Worship** – Jesus says, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Opening Hymn** – NTH 181 – We Come, O Christ, to You

**Reading of Law** – Deuteronomy 5:1-21

**Confession of Sin** – Almighty God, we confess we have broken your commandments. We have sinned by selfishness, worldliness, unbelief and pride. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, and we have not walked humbly with you. Forgive us our sins and blot out our debts according to your tender mercies, according to your loving kindness. Cleanse us by the blood of Jesus your Son. Give us a humble and contrite heart that we might forgive others as you have forgiven us. We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** – What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Rom. 8:31-34

**Confession of Faith** **(Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1)**

Leader: Christian, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

**Exhortation to Give** – As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Tim. 6:17-19

**Doxology** – NTH 733

**Prayer for Collection & Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Psalm 65 / NT: John 5:1-18

Psalm 65 (ESV)

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song. 1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. 2 O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. 3 When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. 4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple! 5 By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas; 6 the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might; 7 who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, 8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy. 9 You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. 10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. 11 You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance. 12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, 13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

John 5:1–18 (ESV)

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” 11 But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’ ” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

**Medley** – God of Grace

– NTH 170 – Fairest Lord Jesus

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of John 5:1-18: “Jesus Equal with God”

Jesus words and actions show He is equal with the Father.

1. The setting: the invalid at the pool of Bethesda. (John 5:1-5)
2. Jesus engages and heals the man by His Word – on the Sabbath. (John 5:6-9)
3. The outcome: the legalistic leaders begin their plot. (John 5:10-16)
4. Jesus’ healing words and works show He is equal with the Father. (John 5:17-18)

**Prayer of Application**

**Closing Song** – NTH 165 – Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

**Benediction** – May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 15:5-6