**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP (with Communion)**

**for Sunday, July 4th, 2021 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – NTH 710 – God of Our Fathers

**Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship Song** – NTH 711 – God the All-Terrible

**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**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 305 – Arise My Soul Arise

**Reading of Law** – A Summary of the Ten Commandments & Great Commandment

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**Corporate Confession of Sin** – Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your great mercy, you sent your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting righteousness. Grant us true repentance that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by faith in Your life-giving Gospel. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may be ever thankful and live a faithful and godly life in your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon** – Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. John 5:24

**Hymn of Confession** – NTH 713 – Great King of Nations, Hear Our Prayer

**Exhortation to Give** – Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High. Ps. 50:14

**Prayer for Regular & Diaconal Collections with Pastoral Prayer**

**Doxology** – NTH 731

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Genesis 4:1-12 / NT: Hebrews 12:22-24

Genesis 4:1–12 (ESV)

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.” 2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. 6 The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.” 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” 10 And the Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

Hebrews 12:22–24 (ESV)

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Communion Sermon** Christ in the OT (Genesis 4:1-12 with Hebrews 12:22-24):

“True Worship & the Blood that Speaks a Better Word”

God’s Gospel promise provokes true worship by faith; but for the unbelieving – idolatry, jealousy, and murder.

1. Cain and Abel model carnal versus true worship. (Genesis 4:1-7)
2. Cain murders Abel – persecuting God’s redeemed worshiper – and his blood cries out for justice. (Genesis 4:8-12)
3. Christ’s blood cries out for mercy for us – and He mediates our true Gospel worship. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

**Prayer of Application**

**Song of Preparation** – Beneath the Cross

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

(Bread: NTH 252 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross / Cup: NTH 254 – Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed)

* Invitation, Warning, and Prayer of Consecration
* Confession of Faith – the Apostles’ Creed
* Serving the Supper
* Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Closing Song** – NTH 378 – Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

**Benediction** – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Cor. 13:14