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

**for Sunday, March 5th, 2023 at 10:45 AM**

**Prelude**

**Opening Song** – Blessed Be Your Name

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. Titus 1:4

**Call to Worship Hymn** – NTH 73 – Rejoice, All People, Homage Give (from Psalm 47)

**Call to Worship** – One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 88 – With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring

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

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**Confession of Sin** – Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us. And grant, O merciful Father, for Jesus’ sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and joyful life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon** – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17

**Exhortation to Give** – Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Heb. 13:16

**Offering and Diaconal Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: NTH 378 – Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face)

**Doxology** – NTH 731

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Genesis 8:20-9:17 / NT: Romans 13:1-7

Genesis 8:20–9:17 (ESV)

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” 1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.” 8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Romans 13:1–7 (ESV)

1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Communion Sermon** – Christ in the Old Testament: “A Common Grace Covenant”

 God covenants to preserve humanity and all the earth – so that Christ would come to save us.

1. God’s worship and promise. (Genesis 8:20-22)
2. God’s blessing, command, and provision. (Genesis 9:1-4)
3. God’s requirement of life for life. (Genesis 9:5-7; Romans 13:1-7)
4. God’s covenant promise and sign. (Genesis 9:8-17)

**Prayer of Application**

**Communion Hymn of Preparation** – Behold the Lamb

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

(Bread: There Is a Redeemer / Cup: NTH 253 – There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood)

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

**Closing Hymn** – NTH 32 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**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 Corinthians 13:14