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

**for Sunday, April 7th, 2024 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – My Jesus Fair

**Gospel Greeting** – To the church of God . . . to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 1:2-3

**Call to Worship Song** – The Risen Christ

**Call to Worship** – Jesus said: “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 286 – Worship Christ, the Risen King

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

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**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.

**Declaration of Pardon** – But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isa. 53:5-6

**Exhortation to Give** – So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Gal. 6:10

**Offering and Diaconal Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: NTH 270 – Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing!)

**Doxology** – NTH 731 – Doxology

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Medley**

– NTH 283 – Alleluia! Alleluia!

– NTH 274 – Thine Be the Glory

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Genesis 17:15-27 / NT: Romans 4:13-25

Genesis 17:15–27 (ESV)

15 And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” 18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” 19 God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. 20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. 21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.” 22 When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. 23 Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. 24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. 27 And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Romans 4:13–25 (ESV)

13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” 23 But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Communion Sermon** – Christ in the OT 27: “He Laughs: The Son of Promise”

The LORD preaches to Abraham the Son of Promise.

1. Laughter and God’s promised Son. (Genesis 17:15-21)
   1. It’s good to laugh with wonder at the promise of God – fulfilled in Christ.
2. Grateful obedience and God’s covenant promise. (Genesis 17:22-27)
   1. It’s good to gratefully obey God’s covenant Word – by faith in Christ.
3. The conviction of faith and justification. (Romans 4:13-25)
   1. It’s good to believe that God does what He promises – confirmed in Christ.

**Prayer of Application**

**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 518 – Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground

**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