**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF SERVICE for Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings of the earth. - Revelation 1:4-5

**Easter Call & Response**

Leader: The Lord is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Opening Hymn** – NTH 277 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

**Reading of Law** – Ephesians 2:1-3

**Confession of Sin**

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature – prone to evil and slothful in good – and all our shortcomings and offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all the ways in which we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son. We trust not in our works but only in the work of Christ on our behalf – because he lived for us the obedient life we fail to live, died for us the cursed death we deserve, and was raised for our justification. Dear heavenly Father, please renew us by your Spirit, that we may from now on live in your light and walk in the way of your holy commandments. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon** – But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. – Ephesians 2:4-5

**Song of Praise** – In Christ Alone

**Confession of Faith (Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 45)**

Leader: How does Christ’s resurrection benefit us?

People: First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained by his death. Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. Third, Christ’s resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

**Exhortation to Give** – 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

**Doxology** – NTH 732

**Prayer for Collection & Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Isaiah 52:13—53:12 / NT: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8: “Good News: Christ Is Really Risen!”

Outline:

Good News: Jesus really died for our sins and really rose from the dead. This is the Gospel which:

1. We received and on which we stand. (1 Cor. 15:1-2)
2. We preach as of first importance. (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
3. We affirm as historical reality – confirmed by its many witnesses. (1 Cor. 15:5-8)

**Prayer of Application**

**Closing song** – W&C 215 – Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Benediction** – Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21