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

**for Sunday, December 1st, 2024 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – Light of the World

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Gal. 1:3-5

**Call to Worship Medley**

– Emmanuel

– The Advent of Our God

**Call to Worship** – But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. – Gal. 4:4-5

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 196 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**General Confession of Sin** – Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us and we shall be whiter than snow. For you have promised, O Father, that if we confess our sins, you will be faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness – by the blood of your Son, Jesus. Restore to us the joy of your salvation by the power of your Holy Spirit. And enable us, by your grace, to walk in the light of your Gospel, and to show fellow sinners the way of repentance; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon** – The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1 Tim. 1:15

**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: Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming)

**Doxology** – NTH 732 – Doxology

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn of Preparation** – NTH 311 – Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Exodus 25:10-22 / NT: Hebrews 9:1-14

Exodus 25:10–22 (ESV)

10 “They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. 12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. 13 You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 14 And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. 15 The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. 16 And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you. 17 “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. 18 And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. 20 The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. 21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. 22 There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

Hebrews 9:1–14 (ESV)

1 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. 2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. 6 These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, 7 but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. 8 By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing 9 (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, 10 but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation. 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Communion Sermon** – An Exposition of Hebrews 9:1-14: “The Greater Tent and the Better Blood”

Christ’s heavenly sacrifice fulfills the shadows of the earthly tabernacle service:

1. The earthly tabernacle and its implications. (Heb. 9:1-5)
2. The earthly priestly service and its limitations. (Heb. 9:6-10)
3. The heavenly fulfillment in the blood of Christ. (Heb. 9:11-14)

**Prayer of Application**

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

(Bread: NTH 251 – Beneath the Cross of Jesus / Cup: NTH 252 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)

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

**Closing Hymn** – NTH 307 – Nothing but the Blood

**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