**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, December 8th, 2024 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – NTH 224 – Go Tell It on the Mountain

**Gospel Greeting** – To the saints . . . faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:1b-2

**Call to Worship Carol** – NTH 198 – Lift Up Your Hearts, Ye Mighty Gates

**Call to Worship** – Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Ps. 105:1-4

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Carol of Praise** – NTH 194 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Reading of the Law** – Luke 10:25-28

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**General 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 offended against your holy laws. 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, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**Assurance 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. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned; but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because He has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:16-18

**Exhortation to Give** – “…Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” – Acts 20:35b

**Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: The Birthday of a King)

**Doxology** – NTH 733

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Carol of Preparation** – NTH 195 – Joy to the World

**Scripture Readings** – OT Lesson: Psalm 24:1-8 / NT Lesson: Hebrews 9:11-22

Exodus 24:1–8 (ESV)

1 Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.” 3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.” 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” 8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Hebrews 9:11–22 (ESV)

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. 15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. 16 For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. 17 For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of Hebrews 9:15-22: “Blood and Covenant”

Christ inaugurates a new and better covenant by His blood, for us whom God has called:

1. His blood secures our eternal inheritance. (Hebrews 9:15)
2. His blood answers the curse for our covenant-breaking ways. (Hebrews 9:16-17)
3. His blood provides the forgiveness of our sins. (Hebrews 9:18-22)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 519 – Fountain of Never-Ceasing Grace

**Benediction** – The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26