**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, March 9th, 2025, at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – Shout to the Lord

**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 Song** – Reformation Hymn

**Call to Worship** – Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:4-5

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 122 – God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory

**Reading of the Law** – Matthew 22:34-40

*(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.

**Assurance of Pardon** – And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” Rom. 4:5-8

**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: But for the Cross of Christ)

**Doxology** – NTH 733

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Medley**

– NTH 644 – May the Mind of Christ My Savior

– Speak, O Lord

**Scripture Readings** – OT Lesson: Psalm 33 / NT Lesson: Hebrews 10:35-11:3

Psalm 33 (ESV)

1 Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. 2 Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. 4 For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! 13 The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; 14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. 16 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. 17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. 18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, 19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. 22 Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Hebrews 10:35–11:3 (ESV)

35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of Hebrews 11:1-3: “What Faith Is”

Faith is trusting in God’s Word of promise in Christ:

1. It is the substance of our unseen hope. (Hebrews 11:1)
2. It is what our elders were commended for. (Hebrews 11:2)
3. It is how we understand the doctrine of creation. (Hebrews 11:3)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 94 – How Firm a Foundation

**Benediction** – Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17