**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM**

**Prelude** – Because He Lives

**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

**Call to Worship Hymn** – W&C 215 – Alleluia**,** Alleluia

**Easter Call & Response**

Minister: The Lord is risen!

Church: He is risen indeed!

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Opening Hymn** – NTH 276 – Up from the Grave He Arose

**Sunday School Choir** – Jesus is Alive Today/Alive, Alive, Alive Forevermore

**Reading of the Law** – Exodus 20:1-17

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**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** – 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

**Responsive Reading** – W&C 182

**Congregational Singing** – Living Hope

**Adult Choir** – Were You There?

**Congregational Singing** – NTH 267 – The Day of Resurrection

**Responsive Reading** – W&C 214

**Adult Choir** – Alleluia

**Congregational Singing** – NTH 277 – Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**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 Offertory** –NTH 275 – The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done

**Prayer for Collection & Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Readings** – OT Lesson: Psalm 16 / NT Lesson: John 20:1-18

Psalm 16 (ESV)

A Miktam of David. 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. 2 I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” 3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. 4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. 5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. 6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. 7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. 8 I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. 10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. 11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 20:1–18 (ESV)

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – John 20:1-18: "I Have Seen the Lord!"

Jesus' empty tomb changes everything!

1. The empty tomb is seen, reported, and verified. And so *hope* lives! (John 20:1-10)
2. The risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene. And so *love* lives! (John 20:11-16)
3. Jesus sends Mary to announce His resurrection and His life-giving words. And so *Jesus* lives! (John 20:17-18)

**Prayer of Application**

**Song of Response** – NTH 286 – Worship Christ, the Risen King!

**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