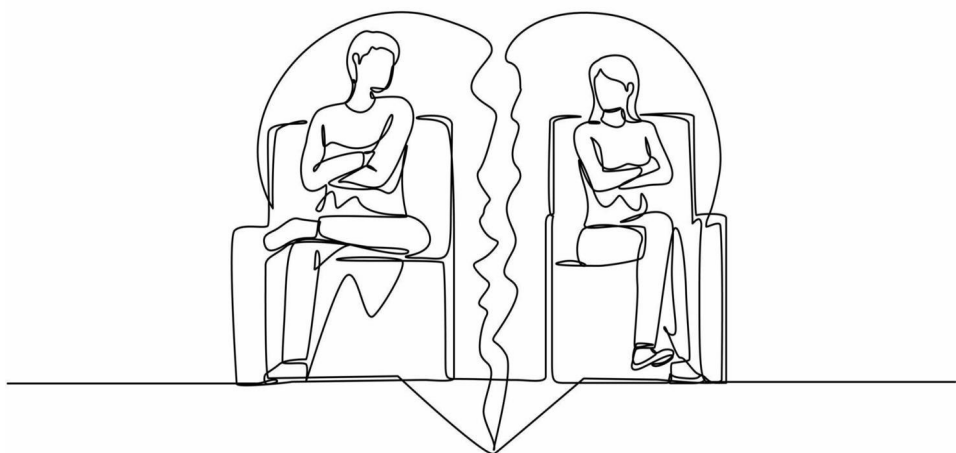


Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026



his word is in my heart like a fire

Believers in God and their ministers have always been persecuted.

Religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to snuff out the truth, but they only succeeded in scattering people to preach the Word throughout the land. The Roman Empire persecuted Christians with stakes and lions, but God's Church exploded with growth. In Martin Luther's day, both pope and emperor tried to limit the gospel movement spreading from Germany, but God led many people to seek the truth. As Luther wrote about the church, "the absence of any persecution is absolute persecution."

God calls his people to keep the faith and preach the Word no matter what it costs, even when the people closest to us turn against us. And the same Word that costs us so much also gives us his presence and his power to bear the cost.

Hymn #874

Preserve Your Word, O Savior

Please stand for the last verse.



1 Pre - serve your Word, O Sav - ior, to us this lat - ter
2 Pre - serve your Word and preach - ing, the truth that makes us
3 Pre - serve in wave and tem - pest your storm-tossed lit - tle



day, and let your king - dom flour - ish; en - large your
whole, the mir - ror of your glo - ry, the pow'r that
flock; as - sailed by wind and weath - er, may it en -



Church, we pray. O keep our faith from fail - ing, keep
saves the soul. Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, this
dure each shock. Come take the helm, our pi - lot, and



hope's bright star a - glow; let noth - ing turn us
spring of heav'n - ly grace, sus - tain us while here
set the course a - right; then we will reach the



from you while wan-d'ring here be - low.
liv - ing un - til we see your face.
har - bor in your e - ter - nal light.

Text: Andreas Gryphius, 1616–1664, abr.; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt. Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

In the name of the Father and + of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father + and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.



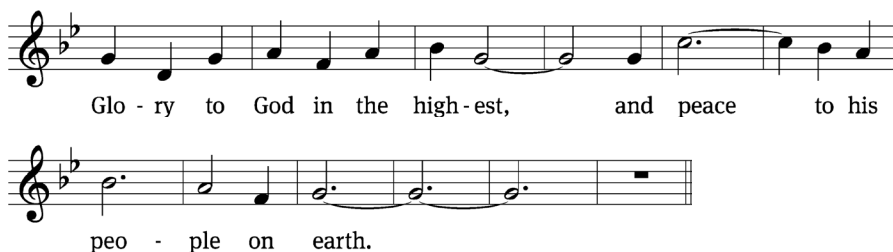
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated
at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of
God the Father. Amen. Amen. **Refrain**

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, because your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in your eternal love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7–13

Jeremiah had been beaten and put in stocks for public humiliation. And still, God's Word burned in his heart like a fire he couldn't hold in.

⁷You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived;
you overpowered me and prevailed.

I am ridiculed all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸Whenever I speak, I cry out
proclaiming violence and destruction.
So the word of the LORD has brought me
insult and reproach all day long.

⁹But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"
his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

¹⁰I hear many whispering,
"Terror on every side!
Denounce him! Let's denounce him!"

All my friends
are waiting for me to slip, saying,

“Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we will prevail over him
and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
their dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹²LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous
and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the LORD!
Give praise to the LORD!
He rescues the life of the needy
from the hands of the wicked.

The Word of the Lord.

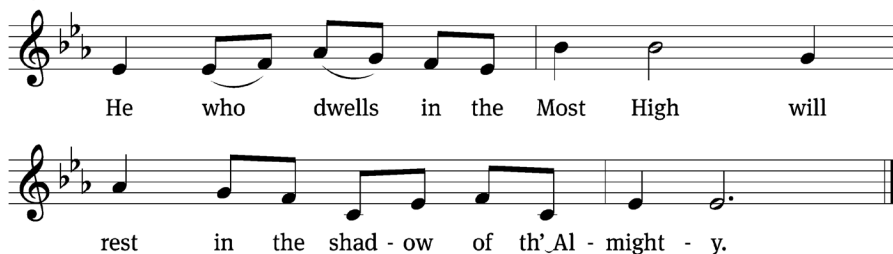
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91A

The Shadow of the Almighty

*The congregation sings the **Refrain** and the **Glory be...** in bold print.*

Refrain



Surely he will save you from the / fowler's snare
and from the deadly / pestilence.
He will cover you with his / feathers,
and under his wings you will find / refuge.

You will not fear the ter- / ror of night,
nor the arrow that / flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the / darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at / midday.

Refrain

If you say, "The LORD is my / refuge,"
and you make the Most High your / dwelling,
no harm will over- / take you,
no disaster will come / near your tent.

For he will command his angels con- / cerning you
to guard you in / all your ways;
they will lift you up / in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot a- / gainst a stone.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.**

Refrain

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Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:1–8

Paul knew how to give persecution, and he knew how to take it. So he charges Timothy to preach the word with all boldness and conviction.

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 12:9

The congregation sings the Refrain before and after the verse.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 10:5a, 21–33

Total commitment to Christ will bring constant conflict with the world around you. So Jesus charges us to confess him in public, pointing us to his rewards in heaven.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³²“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn #823

Jesus, Priceless Treasure



- 1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, fount of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arms I rest me; foes who would op - press me
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; death, I now de - cry thee;
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,
5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me. Ah, how long in an - guish
can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!
Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther,



shall my spir - it lan - guish, yearn - ing, Lord, for thee?
ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
nor thy threats a - larm me while I sing of peace.
Naught to me thy sto - ry told with tempt - ing voice.
though the storms may gath - er, still have peace with - in.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
Light - nings flash and thun - ders crash; yet, though sin and
God's great pow'r guards ev - 'ry hour; earth and all its
Pain or loss or shame or cross shall not from my
Yea, what - e'er I here must bear, thou art still my



naught to hide thee; naught I ask be - side thee.
hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
depths a - dore him, si - lent bow be - fore him.
Sav - ior move me since he deigns to love me.
pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 4–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 3): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Sermon

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

Known by the Father, fearless before the world

After the sermon, please stand for the creed.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at bit.ly/LHgive.

Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.



Offering Prayer

Lord Jesus, use the offerings we bring you to support the work of your kingdom around the world. More than that, use our giving as a reminder to ourselves and as a testimony to others that we serve no god but you, and that our security, well-being, and life are found in you alone.

Amen.

Hymn #895

Preach You the Word

Whatever else competes for our attention, God's people have no greater need than the pure Word of God and its teaching.



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home to those who
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task your ser - vant
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love scat - ters a -
6 Preach you the Word and plant it home and nev - er



like or like it not, the Word that shall en -
bids us un - der - take: to preach your Word and
broad the good - ly seed, in - tent a - lone that
faint; the Har - vest Lord who gave the sow - er



dure and stand when flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
nev - er ask what pride - ful prof - it it may make.
there may be the whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
seed to sow will watch and tend his plant - ed Word.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

based on Psalm 91

Lord Jesus, because you crushed the head of that serpent, the Devil, make us bold to face every challenge of life. With you at our side, nothing can separate us from your love. With your angels standing guard over us, no danger can overcome us. Help us triumph in every temptation, and show us your salvation already won.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

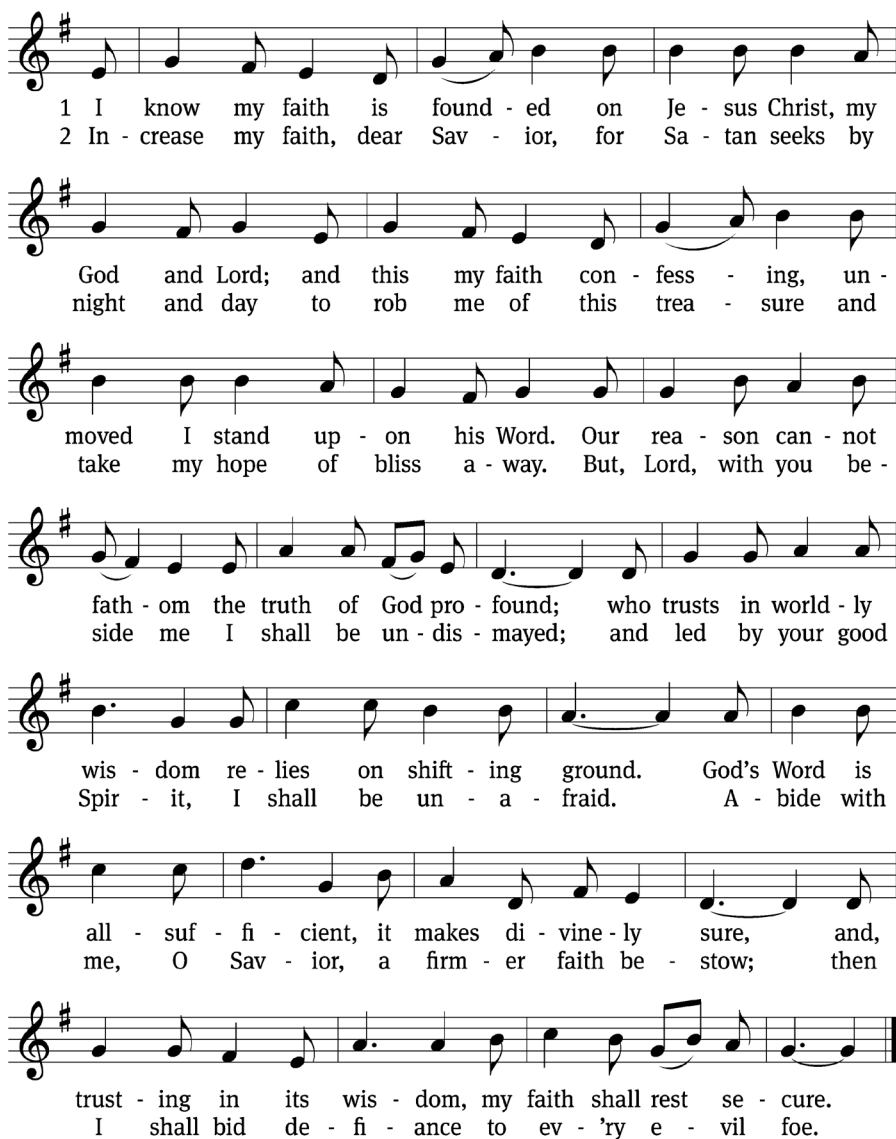
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #797

I Know My Faith Is Founded



1 I know my faith is found - ed on Je - sus Christ, my
 2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, for Sa - tan seeks by

God and Lord; and this my faith con - fess - ing, un -
 night and day to rob me of this trea - sure and

moved I stand up - on his Word. Our rea - son can - not
 take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with you be -

fath - om the truth of God pro - found; who trusts in world - ly
 side me I shall be un - dis - mayed; and led by your good

wis - dom re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
 Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with

all - suf - fi - cient, it makes di - vine - ly sure, and,
 me, O Sav - ior, a firm - er faith be - stow; then

trust - ing in its wis - dom, my faith shall rest se - cure.
 I shall bid de - fi - ance to ev - 'ry e - vil foe.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Substitute Teachers Needed

Sunday School runs September through May, and our teachers are vital to this program. We want to build a teaching roster that provides built-in relief when illness, travel, and other interruptions come. 1-2 people are needed to learn from our experienced teachers and cover class occasionally. This is a defined, occasional role, not a weekly commitment or an on-call, whenever-we-need-you situation.

Contact Education chairman Bob Harrison (roharris5@aol.com) to indicate your interest or learn more.

Plan for Growth in God's Word

The fall education program is returning at Living Hope. Our goal is that every member be actively engaged in studying God's Word with each other through one of our programs. Here's the schedule so you can plan to dig in to his Word with us this year.

Sunday Mornings - beginning September 13

- *Bible Study* (7th grade and up) — topical study — 10:30–11:30 am
- *Sunday School* (K–6th grade) — 10:30–11:30 am

Weeknight Classes

- *Youth Catechism* (7th–8th grade) — Tuesday nights through May — 5:30–6:45pm
- *Jesus & Me* (basic Christian doctrine — for new members or a refresher) — 4 consecutive weeks, beginning September 29
- *Israel: Where Jesus Walked* (all ages) — 5 Wednesdays beginning Sept. 23 — 7:30–8:45 pm - in-person and online. Follows the itinerary of the 2027 Israel Tour, but valuable whether or not you're going.

At-Home Study

- *Bible Reading Group* (all ages) — 1-2 chapters of daily, at-home reading (Apostle Paul's N.T. books, in order of writing), with weekly Zoom discussion — begins the week of Aug. 30 through mid-December — sign-up details + reading schedule coming soon.

All classes take place at Living Hope, unless stated otherwise.

Interested in knowing more? Contact Pastor Lindemann (pastorlindemann@livinghopewels.com) or Bob Harrison (roharris5@aol.com).

This week at Living Hope

Today

10am Refreshments
10:30am Family Bible Lesson

Tuesday

1:30pm Assisted-living Service at Brandermill Woods
7pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday

7pm Church Council Meeting

Next Sunday

9am Worship w/ Communion
10am Refreshments
10:30am Family Bible Lesson

Gathering around God's Word

Family Bible Lesson

Today: Baptism: *What It Does*. The old sinful Adam is a strong swimmer, fighting to resurface in your life every single day. God has given you a daily way to drown him.

Next Sunday: The Lord's Supper: *What It Is*. You hear his voice in the Word every day. But at the altar, you see him face to face. Christ's true body and blood are given and poured out for you.

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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Hymn #797

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Centonus novi, Augsburg, 1540, ed. Johann Kugelmann

Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Sarah Seifert
Morris Hayes

Ushers

Bob Harrison
Greg Six & Josh Clark

Acolyte

Cora Lacey
Jaxson Saur

Church Cleaning

Rathje Family
still needed

After-worship Snacks

still needed
Women of Hope

Livestream

Lacey
Saur

Offering Caretakers

Beverly Henley & Barbara Byrd
Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes

Mowing

Brian Lacey & Kyle Rathje
Curt Roby & Morris Hayes

Assisted-living Leader

Phil Nawrocki
Livestreamed

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



3903 Old Hundred Rd S
Midlothian, Virginia
LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.

- 1 Peter 1:3

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cell: 804-239-5206