

HOPE CHURCH



Arles: View from the Wheat Fields, Vincent van Gogh, 1888.

Ascension of the Lord
May 17, 2026

Reflections

"[Evangelism] is a work of communication in which Christians make themselves mouthpieces for God's message of mercy to sinners. Anyone who faithfully delivers that message, under whatever circumstances, in a large meeting, in a small meeting, from a pulpit, or in a private conversation, is evangelizing.... But the way to tell whether in fact you are evangelizing is not to ask whether conversions are known to have resulted from your witness. It is to ask whether you are faithfully making known the gospel message."

J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*

"Shalom is what the Kingdom of God smells like."

Lisa Sharon Harper, *The Very Good Gospel*

"Nothing is lacking for the salvation of men. God has provided all. He has not left the garment almost long enough, but needing that we should add a fringe; nor has he provided a feast almost sufficient for us if we bring at least another loaf; nor has he built a house of mercy, almost completed, but leaving us to add a few more tiles to the roof. No, no. The work is finished, and from top to bottom salvation is of the Lord."

Charles Spurgeon, "A Testimony to Free and Sovereign Grace"

Ross Douthat: "Do you think you're ready to die? Do you feel ready?"

Ben Sasse: "I don't feel ready. But to whom would I go?... [Jesus] says: You can't keep the children from me. And we're told that we get to approach the Almighty, we get to approach the divine and call him Daddy, Abba, Father? That's pretty glorious. And I know that that's what I need."

"How Ben Sasse Is Living Now That He Is Dying," *The New York Times*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

I Will Sing

With my mouth I will tell of Your faithfulness
I'll declare Lord Your covenant with my life

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever
I will sing of the Lord's great love
I will sing of the Lord's great love forever
I will sing oh I will sing

Lord You are the glory of all our strength
Your presence along the way for all our days

Oh Lord God Almighty who is like You
Oh Lord God Almighty none beside You
Oh Lord God Almighty
All the earth and sky belong to You

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

**Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!**

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!

**Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

from Psalm 96

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all

As we lift our eyes
To the Risen King
Every knee will bow, every tongue will sing
As our voices rise,
Let our praises fall
On the one who is crowned as the Lord of all

Let ev'ry kindred ev'ry tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all

PRAISE SONG

Jesus Cast a Look on Me

Jesus cast a look on me,
Give me sweet simplicity
Make me poor and keep me low,

Seeking only Thee to know

All that feeds my busy pride,
Cast it evermore aside
Bid my will to Thine submit,
Lay me humbly at Thy feet

Make me like a little child,
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled
Seeing only in Thy light,
Walking only in Thy might

Leaning on Thy loving breast,
Where a weary soul can rest
Feeling well the peace of God,
Flowing from His precious blood

In this posture let me live,
And hosannas daily give
In this temper let me die,
And hosannas ever cry!

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O Lord
When we are hesitant in our proclamation;
seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.

Forgive us, O Lord
When we are half-hearted in our service;
reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.

Forgive us, O Lord
When we live as if we don't need your provision;
relying on our own strength, skill, and resources.

Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith
and open wide our hearts and minds to the immanent presence
of our risen, living and ascended Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

RENEWAL SONG

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me;
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood:
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood:
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED (Both Services)

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Salvation Belongs to the Lord: Renewing our Engagement with the World”

Ethan Smith

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶ “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”

Luke 10:1-21

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Exsultet



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Jesus, with Thy Church Abide

Jesus, with Thy church abide;
Be her savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried:

We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

Keep her life and doctrine pure;
Grant her patience to endure,
Trusting in Thy promise sure:
We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

May she one in doctrine be,
One in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in Thee:
We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find
And the brokenhearted bind:
We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God

In the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts,
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth.

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13

SENDING SONG

Rhythm of the Kingdom

You've been calling us, calling us to yourself;
Now you're calling us to the world.

This is the rhythm of the kingdom.

We will gather and we will go.
This is the rhythm of the kingdom.
Hallelujah, watch it grow, watch it grow.

**Please retrieve children from nursery before joining us
on the field side of the building for the Groundbreaking Celebration.**

GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

WELCOME

OPENING SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER

BREAKING GROUND

CLOSING HYMN AND DOXOLOGY

THE SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Join us in celebration: Get your own photo taken at the balloon arch. Write your name or the name of a friend you hope to welcome into Hope on a rock to be buried in the foundation. Walk the prayer stations. Enjoy refreshments.

LIFE TOGETHER

FAMILY UPDATES

Congratulations to David and Georgia Watts on the birth of Hallie Ann: Meal plan in Looking Up.

SERVE

CityLights Snack Bag Wishlist in Looking Up for Hope Kids' Outreach May Project.

Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry Worship Service - May 24: Contact Ethan Smith.

Hope for the City Mission Week - June 1-4: Registration for each day now open.

CHURCH LIFE

Groundbreaking Celebration - Today 11:15am: Join us outside with the whole family!

Women's Summer Book Study - Wednesdays 7:30-9pm | June 10: Register now.

Men's Book Study - Wednesdays 12pm or Thursdays 5:30am | June 10: Rm 209.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Summer Youth Group - 4:30-6pm May 31, Jun. 14 & 28: Rising 6th + current youth.

CFA Lunches - Wednesdays 11:30-12:30: Rising 6th + Current youth; self-pay.

Kids Connection - *May Verse* - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF MAY 12TH, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$496,572	\$488,731	\$7,841	1.60%
Expense	\$547,126	\$581,413	-\$34,287	-5.90%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$50,554	-\$92,681		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$9.4 million	\$5,243,302	\$743,342	\$4,604,381