

LIVING STONE WORSHIP
✠ Fourth Sunday of Easter ✠
Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 10:45 a.m.

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Prayer Before Worship

Risen and ascended Lord, You are the Good Shepherd. You lay down Your life for the sheep; they are Yours. Empower Your Church to reach every sheep of Yours and to give witness until You have brought all Your sheep into one fold; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Announcements & Greeting

Opening Song

“Your Love Defends Me”

Verse 1

You are my joy; You are my song.
You are the well, the One I'm drawing from.
You are my refuge my whole life long.
Where else would I go?

Chorus

Bridge

We sing, “Hallelujah,
You're my portion, my salvation.
Hallelujah.” (Repeat)

Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul.
Your love defends me, Your love defends me.
And when I feel like I'm all alone,
Your love defends me, Your love defends me.

Chorus 2x

Ending

We sing, “Hallelujah,
You're my portion, my salvation.
Hallelujah, You're my portion, my salvation.
Hallelujah, You're my portion, my salvation.”

Verse 2

Day after day, night after night,
I will remember You're with me in this fight.
Although the battle, it rages on,
The war's already won.
I know the war is already won.

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 4:1–12

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the Stone that was rejected by you, The Builders, which has become The Cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 23

P The Lord is my shepherd;

C **I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **He leads me beside still waters.**

P He restores my soul.

C **He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.**

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me;

C **Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C **and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. Whoever keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 10:11–18

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Song of the Day

- 1 He’s coming on the clouds,
Kings and kingdoms will bow down.
And ev’ry chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Chorus

**Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah.
He’s roaring with power, and fighting our battles.
And ev’ry knee will bow before Him.
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain.
For the sins of the world,
His blood breaks the chains.
And ev’ry knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Ev’ry knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.**

“The Lion and the Lamb”

- 2 So open up the gates,
Make way before the King of kings.
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Chorus

Bridge

**Who can stop the Lord Almighty? (repeat 5x)
Who can stop the Lord?**

Chorus

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Sermon

“Jesus, the Good Shepherd”

Song of Response

“What a Beautiful Name”

Verse 1

**You were the Word at the beginning,
one with God the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation,
now revealed in You, our Christ.**

Chorus 1

**What a beautiful Name it is,
what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is,
nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.**

Verse 2

**You didn't want heaven without us,
so Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great, Your love was greater;
what could separate us now?**

Chorus 2

**What a wonderful Name it is,
what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is,
nothing compares to this.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.**

Bridge

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again.
You have no rival, You have no equal.
Now and forever God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory,
Yours is the Name above all name

Chorus 3

**What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is. The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against.
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus. What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.**

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Confession of Sins and Absolution

LSB 151

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**
P The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained 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. *John 20:19–23*
C **Amen.**

Nicene Creed

- C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Offering

Offertory Song

“Holy Spirit”

Verse 1

**There's nothing worth more
that will ever come close.
No thing can compare;
You're our living hope. Your Presence Lord.**

Verse 1/ Verse 2/ Chorus

Bridge (3x)

**Let us become more aware of Your Presence;
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness.**

Verse 2

**I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves,
Where my heart becomes free
and my shame is undone, in Your Presence, Lord.**

Chorus

Chorus

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here;
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,
To be overcome by Your Presence, Lord.
Your Presence, Lord.**

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Prayer of the Church

- ✠ Thanksgiving for the 15th wedding anniversary of Nicholas and Kathy Schubert. (April 24)
- ✠ Thomas Banks who is hospitalized.
- ✠ Thanksgiving for the birth of Reagan Olive Wissmann, granddaughter of Ron and Julie Wissmann. (April 12)
- ✠ Thanksgiving for the birth of Joanie Marie Wanko, granddaughter of Steve and Bev Gruenwald. (April 17)

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C 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.**

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

C Amen.

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Closing Song

“Battle Belongs”

Verse 1

When all I see is the battle, You see my victory.
When all I see is a mountain,
You see a mountain moved.
And as I walk through the shadow,
Your love surrounds me.
There's nothing to fear now,
For I am safe with You.

Chorus

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high,
O God, the battle belongs to You.
And every fear I lay at Your feet,
I'll sing through the night,
O God, the battle belongs to You.

Verse 2

And if You are for me who can be against me?
For, Jesus, there's nothing impossible for You.
When all I see are the ashes, You see the beauty.
When all I see is a cross,
God, You see the empty tomb.

Chorus

Bridge

An Almighty Fortress, You go before us.
Nothing can stand against the power of our God.
You shine in the shadows, You win every battle.
Nothing can stand against the power of our God.
(3x)

Chorus

O God, the battle belongs to You.

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+ + +

Preacher
Presiding Minister
Assisting Seminarian
Instrumentalists

Sound

Pastor Thomas
Pastor Wade
Max Johnston
Whitney Wade, guitar
Ben Rudzinski, percussion
Leslie Rudzinski, Abby Ahlbrand, Cory Ahlbrand, Whitney Wade, vocals
Jonny Thompson

Acknowledgments

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