

LIVING STONE WORSHIP

✠ Fifth Sunday of Easter ✠

Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 10:45 a.m.

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Prayer Before Worship

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Help us to be faithful to Him to death and to receive life eternal. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Announcements & Greeting

Call to Worship

Psalm 146

L "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!"

C "I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being."

L "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God."

C "He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; he keeps faith forever."

L "The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down."

ALL "The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!"

Opening Song

"Blessed Be Your Name"

1 Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be Your name.

2 Blessed be Your name,
When I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be Your name.

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say,

Chorus

"Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name."

3 Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's "all as it should be."
Blessed be Your name.

4 Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be Your name.

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Bridge

You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
"Lord, Blessed be Your name." (REPEAT)

Chorus (2x)

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Easter Acclamation

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

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 **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P Let us pray.
O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:1–10

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 14:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”

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

Song of the Day

“Firm Foundation (He Won’t)”

Verse 1

Christ is my firm foundation,
the rock on which I stand.
When everything around me is shaken,
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus,
'Cause He's never let me down.
He's faithful through generations,
so why would He fail now.

Chorus 1

He won't, He won't.

Verse 2

I've still got joy in chaos.
I've got peace that makes no sense.
So I won't be going under.
I'm not held by my own strength,
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus.
He's never let me down.
He's faithful in every season,

So why would He fail now.

Chorus 2

He won't, He won't.
He won't fail. He won't fail.

Bridge

Rain came and wind blew,
But my house was built on You.
And I'm safe with You,
I'm gonna make it through. (REPEAT)

Yeah I'm gonna make it through,
'cause my house is built on You.

Verse 1

Chorus 2 (2x)

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Sermon

“Building Expansion” John 14:1-14

Song of Response

“Goodness of God”

Verse 1

I love You Lord.
Oh, Your mercy never fails me.
All my days I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
until I lay my head,
I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.

Verse 2

I love Your voice.
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a father,
I've known You as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Chorus

Bridge

Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now;
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.

Chorus 2x

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Children's Message

Offering

The offertory is an important time to reflect with thanksgiving on the many blessings God has given us.

Offertory

Verse 1

**People of the Lord, come now and sing.
Every nation and tongue, to Christ our King.
With empty hands, His gifts receive.**

Verse 2

**Whether young or old, you're a child of God.
Whether rich or poor, no matter what you got.
He gathers all at the foot of the cross.**

Chorus

**His body broken makes this body whole.
His resurrection, it assures us all.
No darkness, nor doubting, nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ.**

Verse 3

**Sinners and saints, you have a place.
With the Spirit's gifts, proclaim His grace.
There's nothing too small
To be used by the Living God.**

"United in Christ"

Chorus

Bridge

**We are the body, Christ is the head.
Sealed with the promise, through blood He shed.
We are the body, Christ is the head.
His grace the heartbeat, our confidence.
We are the body, Christ is the head.
Sealed with the promise, through blood He shed.
We are the body, Christ is the head.
His grace the heartbeat, our confidence.
Our confidence.**

Chorus

Tag

**No darkness, nor doubting, nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ.**

Prayer of the Church

- † Thanksgiving for the 20th wedding anniversary of Phil and Mary Theiss (April 29).
- † Thanksgiving for the 26th wedding anniversary of Jason and Melissa Truesdell (April 29).
- † JoAnn Christensen upcoming surgery.

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

“Build Your Kingdom Here”

- 1 **Come set Your rule, and reign
In our hearts again.
Increase in us, we pray.
Unveil why we’re made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope,
Like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.
We are Your church; We need Your pow’r in us.**
- 2 **We seek Your kingdom first.
We hunger and we thirst;
Refuse to waste our lives,
For You’re our joy and prize.
To see the captives’ hearts released;
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven’s cause.
We are Your church; We pray revive this earth.**

Chorus

**Build Your kingdom here.
Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand.
Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere.
Build Your kingdom here, we pray!**

- 3 **Unleash Your kingdom’s pow’r,
Reaching the near and far.
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty, changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this;
Awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are Your church; We are the hope on earth.**

Chorus

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Preacher
Assisting Seminarists
Instrumentalists

Pastor Schudde
Paul Blessing
William Jackson, guitar
Whitney Wade, percussion
Mark Yaeger, piano
Tavia Shively, Darren Meyer, Leslie Rudzinski, William Jackson, vocals
Darren Meyer and Kiera Presti

Sound

Acknowledgments

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