

# LIVING STONE WORSHIP

## † St. Matthew, Apostle And Evangelist †

### Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 10:45 a.m.

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#### Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, You call us to be faithful in very little in order to be trusted with much. Preserve us by Your perpetual mercy, and because without You we cannot but fall, keep us from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### Announcements & Greeting

#### Call to Worship

*Psalm 119:33-40*

- L Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.  
C **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**  
L Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.  
C **Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!**  
L Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.  
ALL **Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!**

#### Opening Song

**“Good Grace”**

Verse 1

**People come together,  
Strange as neighbours, our blood is one.  
Children of generations,  
Of every nation, of Kingdom come.**

Verse 2

**Jesus, our redemption,  
Our salvation is in His blood.  
Jesus, Light of heaven,  
Friend forever, His Kingdom come.**

Chorus

**Don't let your heart be troubled;  
Hold your head up high. Don't fear no evil;  
Fix your eyes on this one truth:  
God is madly in love with you.  
Take courage, hold on, be strong,  
Remember where our help comes from.**

Chorus

Bridge

**Swing wide all you heavens,  
Let the praise go up as the walls come down.  
All creation, everything with breath  
repeat the sound.  
All His children, clean hands, pure hearts  
Good grace, good God. His Name is Jesus. (3x)**

Verse 2

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#### Invocation

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

#### Confession of Sins and Absolution

- 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.**

### Salutation & Prayer of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.**
- P Let us pray.  
O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

*Ezekiel 2:8–3:11*

“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. And He spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

And He said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” So I opened my mouth, and He gave me this scroll to eat. And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

And He said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them. For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to Me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” Moreover, He said to me, “Son of man, all My words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 4:7–16*

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says,

“When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.”

(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the One who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather,

speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.

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

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." And he rose and followed Him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when He heard it, He said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Song of the Day

### "Your Love Awakens Me"

1 There were walls between us.  
By the cross You came and broke them down,  
You broke them down.  
And there were chains around us.  
By Your grace we are no longer bound,  
No longer bound.

Pre-Chorus

You called me out of the grave.  
You called me into the light.  
You called my name and then,  
my heart came alive.

Chorus

Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.  
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.  
(REPEAT)

2 Feel the darkness shaking.  
All the dead are coming back to life. I'm back to life.  
Hear the song awaken All creation singing,  
"We're alive 'Cause You're alive!"

Pre-chorus & Chorus

Bridge

And what a love we've found. Death can't hold us  
down.  
We shout it out: We're alive 'cause You're alive!  
(REPEAT 3x)

Chorus (2x)

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## Sermon

### "Friendless Meets Friend"

## Song of Response

### "Without Hesitation"

Verse 1

You spoke light into existence  
Separated sky and sea  
Set the stars and worlds in motion  
And You gave it all to me.

Chorus

What can I say? How can I thank You?  
All of my days, I want to praise You.  
Without hesitation You gave Yourself to me.  
Without hesitation I fall upon my knees.

Verse 2

You made land and winding rivers  
Singing birds in ev'ry tree.  
The whole canvas of creation  
And You gave it all to me.

Chorus

Verse 3

A dirty stall and borrowed linen  
In a place no babe should be,  
You left all-surpassing glory  
And You gave it all for me.

Chorus 2x

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## 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

### Offertory Song

### "My Worth Is Not in What I Own"

1 My worth is not in what I own;  
Not in the strength of flesh and bone.  
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.

2 My worth is not in skill or name;  
In win or lose, in pride or shame.  
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

Chorus

I rejoice in my Redeemer.  
Greatest treasure, Wellspring of my soul.  
I will trust in Him, no other;  
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.

3 As summer flowers we fade and die;  
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by.  
But life eternal calls to us at the cross.

4 I will not boast in wealth or might,  
Or human wisdom's fleeting light.  
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross.

Chorus

5 Two wonders here that I confess:  
My worth and my unworthiness.  
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross.

Chorus 2x

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## Prayer of the Church

- † Harold Hagemann who is hospitalized.
- † Brian Meyr recovering from surgery.
- † Thanksgiving for the birth of Christopher Aaron Sterling, son of Aaron and Katherine Sterling, grandson of Dan and Caryn Sterling (Sept. 12).
- † Thanksgiving for the birth of Raelynn Elizabeth Vondera, daughter of Bobby and Kristin Vondera, granddaughter of Jay Parker (Sept. 6).
- † All who mourn the death of Larry Meyer, brother of Carol Petering.

## 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.

## Closing Song

## “My Lighthouse”

### Verse 1

In my wrestling, and in my doubts,  
In my failures, You won't walk out.  
Your great love will lead me through;  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

### Verse 2

In the silence, You won't let go.  
In the questions, Your truth will hold.  
Your great love will lead me through;  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

### Chorus

My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,  
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You!  
Oh, My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,  
I will trust the promise:  
You will carry me safe to shore,  
Safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore.

### Verse 3

I won't fear what tomorrow brings.  
With each morning I'll rise and sing.  
My God's love will lead me through;  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

### Chorus

### Bridge

Fire before us, You're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms.  
(3X)

### Chorus

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**Preacher**  
**Presiding Minister**  
**Assisting Seminarian**  
**Instrumentalists**

**Pastor Schudde**

**Pastor Wade**

**Paul Blessing**

**Whitney Wade, Valerie Winkler, guitar**

**Mark Yaeger, piano**

**Darren Meyer, percussion**

**Whitney Wade, Valerie Winkler, Amy Maender, Cory Ahlbrand, Ellie Pelt, vocals**

**Sound**

**Darren Meyer**

**Acknowledgments**

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