

LIVING STONE WORSHIP

✠ “Third Sunday in Advent” ✠

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10:45 a.m.

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Prayer Before Worship

Almighty God, You called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of Your Son. Grant us wisdom to do Your will today and so to witness to Christ's coming and to prepare His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 is the One who keeps faith forever, who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

ALL The Lord will reign forever... Praise the Lord!

Opening Song

“Here I am to Worship”

Verse 1

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Verse 2

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

Chorus

Bridge

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

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.

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Psalm 100, Psalm 30:5b, John 15:11

P The joy of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Today we light three Advent candles. The third candle of Advent is the candle of joy.

C **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!**

P “Weeping may stay for the night,

C **but rejoicing comes in the morning.”**

Response (Sung)

“Light the Candle” - Carl Schalk

Light the candle of JOY today, the Giver of joy is here!

Welcome the joy we crave and pay for, but only Christ can give.

Flicker and flame and glow with joy, light up the world around you.

Flicker and flame and glow with joy, light up the world around you.

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

James 5:7–11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Song of the Day

"Joy to the World"

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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Sermon

"All Creation Waits" *Isaiah 35:1-10*

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

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

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Prayer of the Church

- ✠ All who mourn the death of Dan Huber, brother of Andrea Marx.
- ✠ All who mourn the death of Dee Thake.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 30:5a

P “For His anger lasts only a moment,
C **but His favor lasts a lifetime.”**

P The joy that we have in Christ is the greatest joy of all. Confidently anticipating His joy, we join in a shared confession of sins, with the firm knowledge that we will be forgiven of those sins. We confess together:

C **We have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. We are unworthy of Your grace. Savior of the nations, come. Make our hearts Your home. Abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

silence for reflection

P Christ came to earth to save you. He died for your sins. “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” 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.

C **Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth!**

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Mark 14:22–24

Pax Domini – “Peace of the Lord”

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei – “Lamb of God”

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

John 1:29

Distribution

Song

Verse 1

Oo Oo.
The shepherds came to see the baby;
Stood by his mother's side.
Here laid the Savior inside a manger.
Oh what a glorious night. Oh what a glorious night.

Chorus

I hear the angels singing, hallelujah!
Let the earth receive her king.
I know that love has come.
Sing it out, Jesus Christ is born.
Jesus Christ is born. Yeah!

Verse 2

Oo oo.
The shepherds wondered,
they couldn't hide it, told everyone in sight.
All were amazed when they heard how
God came down on the glorious night.
God came down on this glorious night.

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Song

1 God rest ye merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray.

Pre-Chorus

O, tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy.
O, tidings of comfort and joy.

Chorus

He has come for us, this Jesus.
He's the hope for all mankind.
He has come for us, the Messiah.
Born to give us life.

“He Has Come For Us(God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)”

2 From God, our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came.
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same.
How that in Bethlehem was born,
The Son of God by name.

Chorus

Bridge

All the angels sing, “Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is born!”
All the children sing, “Hallelujah!
He is Christ the Lord!”

Chorus

He is born to give us life.

Bridge

“What a Glorious Night”

Chorus

Glorious, Glorious, What a Glorious night! (repeat)

Chorus

I hear the angels singing, hallelujah!
Let the earth receive her king.
I know that love has come.
Sing it out, Jesus Christ is born.
Jesus Christ is born. Yeah! (repeat)
I heard that Jesus Christ is born. Yeah!

Verse 3

Oo oo.
All is calm now, all is quiet. A Star shining in the sky
Below in Bethlehem, the king is sleeping
Oh What a Glorious Night.
Oh What a Glorious Night.

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Dismissal

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
- C Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C **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

Refrain **Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. Refrain**

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**

**3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

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Preacher
Liturgist
Instrumentalists

Sound

Pastor Schudde
Pastor Thompson
Whitney Wade, William Jackson, guitar
Savannah Richards, piano
Mark Stoddard, bass
Ben Rudzinski, percussion
William Jackson, Annessa Shively, Amory Richards, Whitney Wade, vocals
Ben Rudzinski

Acknowledgments

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