

WRESTLING WITH GOD
A SIX-PART SERMON SERIES

9:00 & 10:15 am August 30, 2020



ROCK OF AGES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to our guests!

- We pray that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace and joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Our mission is to share the rock-solid hope of Jesus with today's world through timeless truths found in the Holy Scriptures.
- Large print service folders and hearing assistance devices are available.
- Restrooms are located at the far ends of the entry area.
- Children's activity bags, quiet toys, and a changing table are available from the nursery in entry area.
- Thank you for respecting your fellow worshippers by practicing social distancing. You are encouraged to socialize in the sanctuary area or outside rather than causing a crowded area in our narthex. Volunteers are sanitizing all shared touch points between services.
- We are part of a world-wide Christian body and support the gospel ministry of the WELS. We'd love to share more with you. Contact our pastor today. You can also visit wels.net





Song Service

Each fifth Sunday of the month we have a special song service.

Hymn

Come and See

♪ **Come and see the glory of the Lord,
Come behold the Lamb.
Come and know the mercy of the King,
Bowing down before him.**

**Come and give thanks unto the Lord,
Come behold the Lamb
Come and sing the praises of the King,
Bowing down before him.**

**For he is Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth.
Lord of all the angels, worthy to be served.
Alleluia, alleluia, Lord.**

In In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession of Sin

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,
we lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:5-8

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

- Silence for personal examination and confession

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. ^{1 John 1:9}

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Praise

We Will Glorify

♪ **We will glorify the King of kings
We will glorify the Lamb
We will glorify the Lord of lords
Who is the great I am**

**Oh, hallelujah to the King of kings
Hallelujah to the Lamb
Hallelujah to the Lord of Lords
Who is the great I am**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Joshua 2:8-21

Rahab recognizes that God's mercy includes all who trust in him.

But before the men lay down, Rahab came up to them on the roof. ⁹She said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land. Because of you, terror has fallen upon us, and all the inhabitants of the land are melting in fear before you.

¹⁰Indeed, we have heard that the LORD dried up the waters of the Red Sea in front of you when you came out of Egypt, and we heard what you did to the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan—to Sihon and to Og. We heard that you devoted them to destruction. ¹¹We heard, and our hearts melted, and no one's courage could hold up anymore against you, because the LORD your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth below. ¹²So now, please swear to me by the LORD that since I have shown kindness to you, you in turn will show kindness to my father's house. Give me a trustworthy sign ¹³that you will preserve the lives of my father and mother and my brothers and sisters and everyone who belongs to them, and that you will spare our lives."

¹⁴The men said to her, "If you do not reveal what we are doing, our lives are pledged for your lives, even to the point of death. Then when the LORD gives us the land, we will show mercy and faithfulness to you."

¹⁵She let them down through the window with a rope, since her house was built into the city wall, and she was living inside the wall.

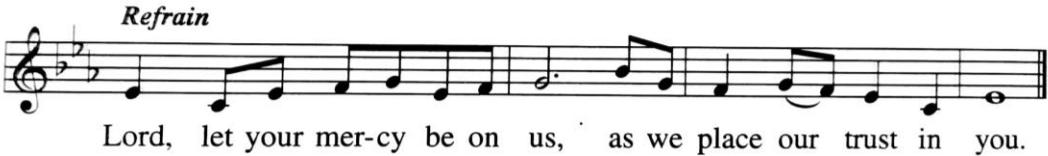
¹⁶She said to them, "To the hill country! Get moving, so the pursuers do not catch up with you. Hide there for three days until the pursuers return, and then you can go on your way."

¹⁷The men said to her, "When we come into the land, we will be free from this oath that you made us swear ¹⁸unless you tie this bright red cord in the window through which you let us down, and you gather your father and mother, your brothers, and your father's entire household into your house. ¹⁹If any one of them goes outside the doors of your house, his blood will be on his own head, and we will be free of guilt. Anyone who is with you in the house, his blood will be on our heads if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰If you reveal what we are doing, we will be free from the oath that you made us swear."

²¹She said, "It will be done just as you have said!" Then she sent them out, and they went away. She tied the bright red cord in the window.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 143
Christian Worship



O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me;
my heart within me is dismayed.

♪ **Lord, let Your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Answer me quickly, O LORD;
Do not hide your face from me

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

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.

♪ **Lord, let Your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Second Lesson

Romans 11:13-15,28-32

God's mercy is for both Jew and non-Jew.

I am speaking to you Gentiles. For as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I am going to speak highly of my ministry. ¹⁴Perhaps I may make my own people jealous, and so save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, what does their acceptance mean other than the dead coming to life?

²⁸In regard to the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But, in regard to election, they are especially dear for the sake of the patriarchs, ²⁹because God's gracious gifts and call are not regretted. ³⁰For just as you were once disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy due to their disobedience, ³¹so also now they have become disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may be shown mercy too. ³²For God imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may show mercy to all.

Children's Message

*All children 5th grade and under are invited to come to the front area.
Helpers and parents are welcome to join them.*

Verse of the Day

Hebrews 4:12

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

A Canaanite woman recognized that God's mercy includes her and her family.

Jesus left that place and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²There a Canaanite woman from that territory came and kept crying out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! A demon is severely tormenting my daughter!"

²³But he did not answer her a word.

His disciples came and pleaded, "Send her away, because she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

²⁵But she came and knelt in front of him, saying, "Lord, help me."

²⁶He answered her, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to their

little dogs.”

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she said, “yet their little dogs also eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, your faith is great! It will be done for you, just as you desire.” And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

Hymn of the Day

In Christ There is No East or West

Christian Worship 539:1,3-5

♪ **In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

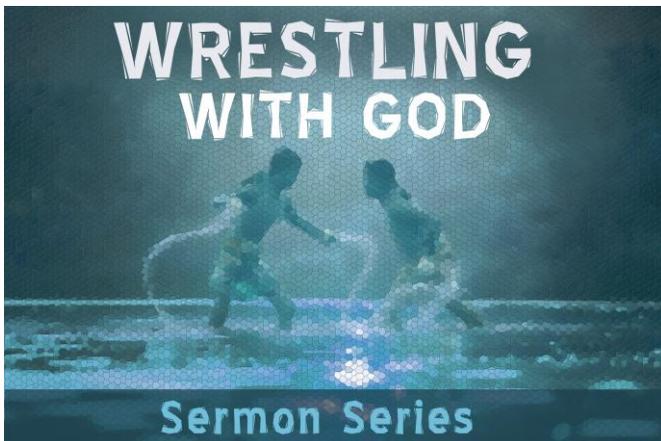
**3. So, brothers, sisters, praise his name
Who died to set us free
From sin, division, hate, and blame,
From spite and enmity!**

**4. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as his child
Is surely kin to me.**

**5. In Christ now meet both east and west;
In him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

Sermon

Matthew 15:21-28



WRESTING WITH GOD

Aug. 30To claim your place at the table (*Matthew 15:21-28*)

Sep. 6To hold tightly to his blessing (*Genesis 32:6-32*)

Sep. 13To understand suffering (*Matthew 16:21-26*)

Sep. 20To obtain a clean heart (*Psalms 51a*)

Sep. 27To see everything work for good (*Genesis 50:15-21*)

Oct. 4To comprehend his grace (*Jonah 4:5-11*)

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

TUNE: BEACH SPRING (CW 353)

♪ **I believe in God the Father,
Maker of the heav'n and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior,
God's own Son of human birth.**

**There at God's right hand he's
ruling, By his will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations,
Both the living and the dead.**

**Virgin-born, the Lord incarnate,
Whom the Spirit did conceive;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
He's the God whom I believe!**

**I believe in God the Spirit,
In his Church, his chosen band.
They are joined in sweet
communion, Holy in his sight they
stand.**

**Crucified, was dead and buried;
Down to hell in victory;
From the dead he rose the third
day; Up to heav'n triumphantly.**

**I believe in sins forgiven;
I believe I'll rise again;
I believe in life eternal.
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

Our offerings go to support the gospel ministry of our congregation and our national church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, WELS. The WELS is active in world-wide ministry in training workers and supporting missions.

Prayer of the Church

Lord Teach Us How to Pray Aright
Christian Worship 412

**♪ Lord, teach us how to pray aright,
With rev'ence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your sight,
We may, we must draw near.**

**2. We suffer if we cease from prayer;
Oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
And when to meet you we prepare,
Lord, meet us on the way.**

**3. Give deep humility; the sense
Of godly sorrow give;
A strong desire, with confidence,
To hear your voice and live;**

**4. Faith in the only sacrifice
That can for sin atone,
To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes
On Christ, on Christ alone.**

**5. Give these, and then
your will be done;
Thus strengthened with your might
We, through your Spirit
and your Son,
Shall pray, and pray aright.**

Lord's Prayer

Special Prayers

Sung by 4 For Christ

Prayer for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus
Christian Worship 446

♪ I am trusting you, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only you,
Trusting you for full salvation,
Free and true.

2. I am trusting you for pardon;
At your feet I bow,
For your grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

3. I am trusting you for cleansing
In the crimson flood,
Trusting you who made me holy
By your blood.

4. I am trusting you to guide me;
You alone shall lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

5. I am trusting you for power;
You can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall
give me
Must prevail.

6. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever
And for all.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Mary Strong; thanks to God for an initial positive response to cancer treatment.
- The Barthel family; thanks to God for the safe travel back home.
- All those who are facing job loss due to the pandemic; that God encourage, comfort, and provide.
- All the children returning to school; that God bless their year of learning and keep students and teachers healthy.

Attendance

8/02 Sunday Worship: 44

8/09 Sunday Worship: 47

8/16 Sunday Worship: 48

8/23 Sunday Worship: 50

Received in August: \$12,095.36 (to date)

Serving This Week

Flowers, Communion Setup: Marlene Nielsen

Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 for Christ

Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel

Ushers: Creig Solomon, Jerry Zuvich

Acknowledgments

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**Please take this service folder
home with you today.**

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, August 30 Pentecost 13

9:00am Worship

10:15am Worship

Tuesday, September 1

Confirmation class resumes (Time TBD)

Wednesday, September 2

9:00am Elders Meeting

6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

Thursday, September 3

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

Sunday, September 6 Pentecost 14

9:00am Worship

10:15am Worship

Wednesday, September 9

6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

Thursday, September 10

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

Sunday, September 13 Pentecost 15

9:00am Worship with Lord's Supper

10:15am Worship with Lord's Supper



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