

WRESTLING WITH GOD

2) TO HOLD TIGHTLY TO HIS BLESSING

9:00 & 10:15 am September 6, 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.
- “Everyone must submit to the governing authorities.” Ro 13:1. As far as it is possible and does not contradict God’s Word we will strive together to submit to every governing authority. We will not cease meeting or change our teaching and worship, but we will comply whenever possible out of reverence for Christ.
- Children’s activity bags, quiet toys, and a changing table are available from the nursery in entry area.
- 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





Service of the Word

This service focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Greeting

Hymn

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Christian Worship 358:1-4

♪ **How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away all fear.**

**2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.**

**3. Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place,
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.**

**4. By you my prayers acceptance gain
Although with sin defiled;
Satan accuses me in vain
For God calls me his child.**

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response of Praise

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Christian Worship 358:5-7

♪ **O Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.**

**6. I praise in weakness from afar--
How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.**

**7. Till then I would your love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of your name Refresh my soul in death.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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

Genesis 32:6-32

After many years of striving by his own efforts Jacob learns to rely fully on the Lord

The messengers returned to Jacob and reported, "We came to your brother Esau. Now he is coming to meet you, and he has four hundred men with him."

⁷So Jacob was terrified and very distressed. He divided the people who were with him, as well as the flocks, and the herds, and the camels, into two camps. ⁸He said, "If Esau comes to one camp and strikes it, then the other camp will escape." ⁹Jacob said, "God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will do good for you,' ¹⁰I am not worthy of even a bit of all the mercy and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for I crossed over this Jordan with just my staff, and now I have grown into two camps. ¹¹Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid that he will come and strike me and the mothers, as well as the children. ¹²You said, 'I will surely do good for you and make your descendants like the grains of sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because there are so many.' "

¹³Jacob spent that night there and selected a gift for Esau his brother from the possessions he had with him: ¹⁴two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵thirty milk camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys with ten foals. ¹⁶He handed them over to his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, "Cross over in front of me, and keep some space between each herd and the next one." ¹⁷He commanded the one in front, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks, 'Whose people are you? Where are you going? Whose herds are these in front of you?' ¹⁸then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. It is a gift sent to you, my lord Esau. Look, he is right behind us.' " ¹⁹He commanded the second group, and the third, and all those who followed the herds, "This is how you shall speak to Esau when you meet him.

²⁰You shall say, 'What's more, look, your servant Jacob is right behind us.' " Jacob said, "I will win his favor with the gift that I have sent ahead of me, and after that I will see his face, and perhaps he will accept me."

²¹So the gift was sent over ahead of him, but he himself spent that night in the camp.

²²He got up that night and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and he also sent his possessions across. ²⁴Jacob was left alone, and he wrestled with a man there until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched the socket of his thigh, and the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated as he wrestled. ²⁶The man said, "Let me go. It's daybreak."

Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷Then he said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

²⁸Then he said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have fought with God and with men, and you have won."

²⁹Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

He said, "Why do you ask what my name is?" Then he blessed him there. ³⁰Jacob named the place Peniel, because he said, "I have seen God face-to-face, and my life has been spared." ³¹The sun rose as he crossed over at Peniel, and he was limping because of his thigh. ³²For that reason, to this day the people of Israel do not eat the tendon of the hip that is on the socket of the thigh, because God touched the socket of Jacob's thigh on the tendon of the hip.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 18

Christian Worship Hymnal

♪ The Mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
He rescued me from my powerful enemy,

He brought me out into a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

♪ The Mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;
my God turns my darkness into light.

You save the humble
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

You give me your shield of victory,
and your right hand sustains me;

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.

♪ The Mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Second Lesson

Revelation 7:1-8

God will keep all of his Church safe under his care.

After this I saw four angels, who stood at the four corners of the earth. They were holding back the four winds of the earth so that the wind could not blow on the earth, the sea, or any tree.

²And I saw another angel coming up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He called out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to harm the earth and the sea. He said, ³"Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees until we have placed a seal on the foreheads of God's servants."

⁴And I heard the number of those sealed:

144,000 sealed from all the tribes of the people of Israel:

⁵from the tribe of Judah, 12,000, who were sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000,

from the tribe of Gad, 12,000,

⁶from the tribe of Asher, 12,000,

from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh, 12,000,
from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi, 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar, 12,000,
from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000,
from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000,
from the tribe of Benjamin, 12,000, who were sealed.

Children's Message

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

Verse of the Day

1Timothy 1:10b

Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

The gates of hell will not withstand against God's Church.

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵He said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he commanded the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

After the gospel reading:

The words and works of our King!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

All Depends on Our Possessing

Christian Worship 421

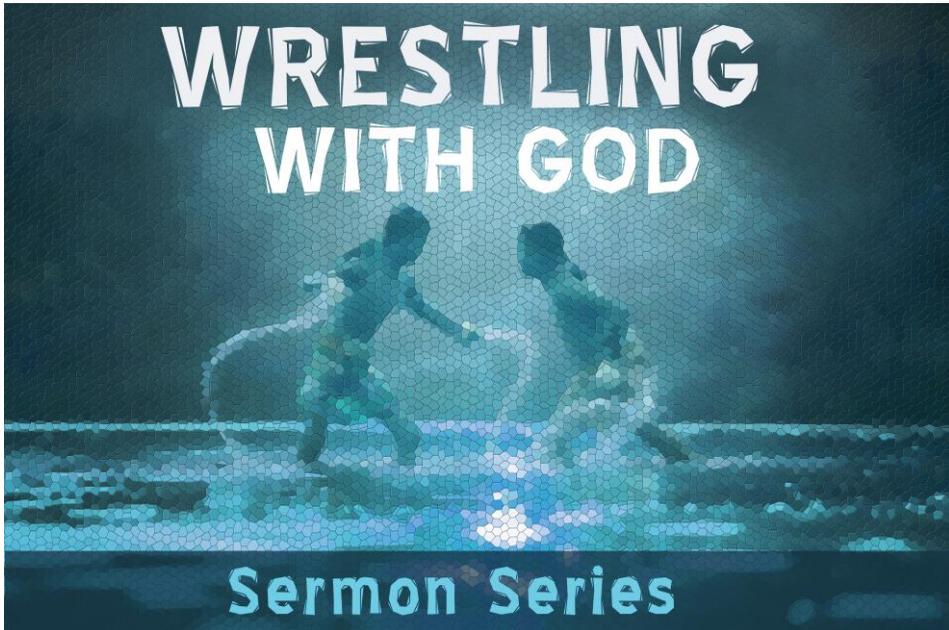
♪ All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
In their God are not forsaken
And e'er keep a dauntless heart.

2. He who to this day has fed me
And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me,
Will remain my help divine.

3. Many spend their lives in fretting
Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure
And that now is seldom found.

4. Well he knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt his wisdom never--
As God wills, so be it ever --
I to him commit my way.

5. If on earth my days he lengthen, He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in his grace.



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

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offerings Gathered

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).

Prayer of the Church

Christian Worship page 42

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen,

Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer for Grace

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

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Christian Worship 402

♪ **My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly thine!**

**2. May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to thee**

**Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!**

**3. While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.**

**4. When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!**

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, September 6 Pentecost 14
9:00am Worship
10:15am Worship

Tuesday, September 8
Youth Confirmation Class? (time TBD)

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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Cindy Hoff's brother who recently learned he has cancer; that God provide healing, comfort, and hope.
- Judi Moore's brother, Michael, whose battle with cancer has become severe; that God give him the peace that comes from knowing nothing will be able to separate him from the love of God that is his through Jesus.
- All those who are facing job loss due to the pandemic; that God encourage, comfort, and provide.
- Carl Fox, who remains on lock down in his place of care; that God comfort him always. *(Carl Fox is at Terra Point, 5330 W Union Hills Dr. Glendale, AZ 85308)*
- Cindy Hoff's friend, Shirley, who is on hospice care; that God bless her through his gospel promises and carry her through the difficult days ahead.

Attendance

8/30 Sunday Worship: 63

9/02 & 03 Midweek Bible Class: 10

Received in August: \$13,916.36 (to date)

Serving This Week

Flowers, Communion Setup: Barbara Miller
Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 for Christ
Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel
Ushers: Del Kary

Acknowledgments

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

Pandemic response update & reminders

- We can humbly thank God that all who have been coming to worship at Rock of Ages have been kept safe this pandemic season.
- The latest governing order (July 31) exempts religious services but still asks us to provide for adequate distancing between families whenever it might be feasible. We are able to comply and will continue to offer two services to help us spread out.
- The first table of the law instructs us to love and honor God above all. We will not cease to worship or compromise any part of his Word.
- The 4th and 5th commandments instruct us to honor authority and love our neighbor.
- Continue to honor the governing authorities in the way that you act and speak. (Romans 13)
- Out of love for one another you are urged to consider how others might feel rather than how you feel.
- Continue to lovingly serve one another even when opinions may differ. "Remember this, my dear brothers: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." - James 1:19.
- God will bless for your efforts to gather for worship and to encourage those who are not able.
- *And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. -Ro 15:5-6.*

Special collection

A member of Rock of Ages is facing a financial crisis due to needed car repairs. If you would like to contribute to a special collection to help this individual, please mark a separate envelope and indicate "Sept. member support gift"



RockofAges-Payson.com

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