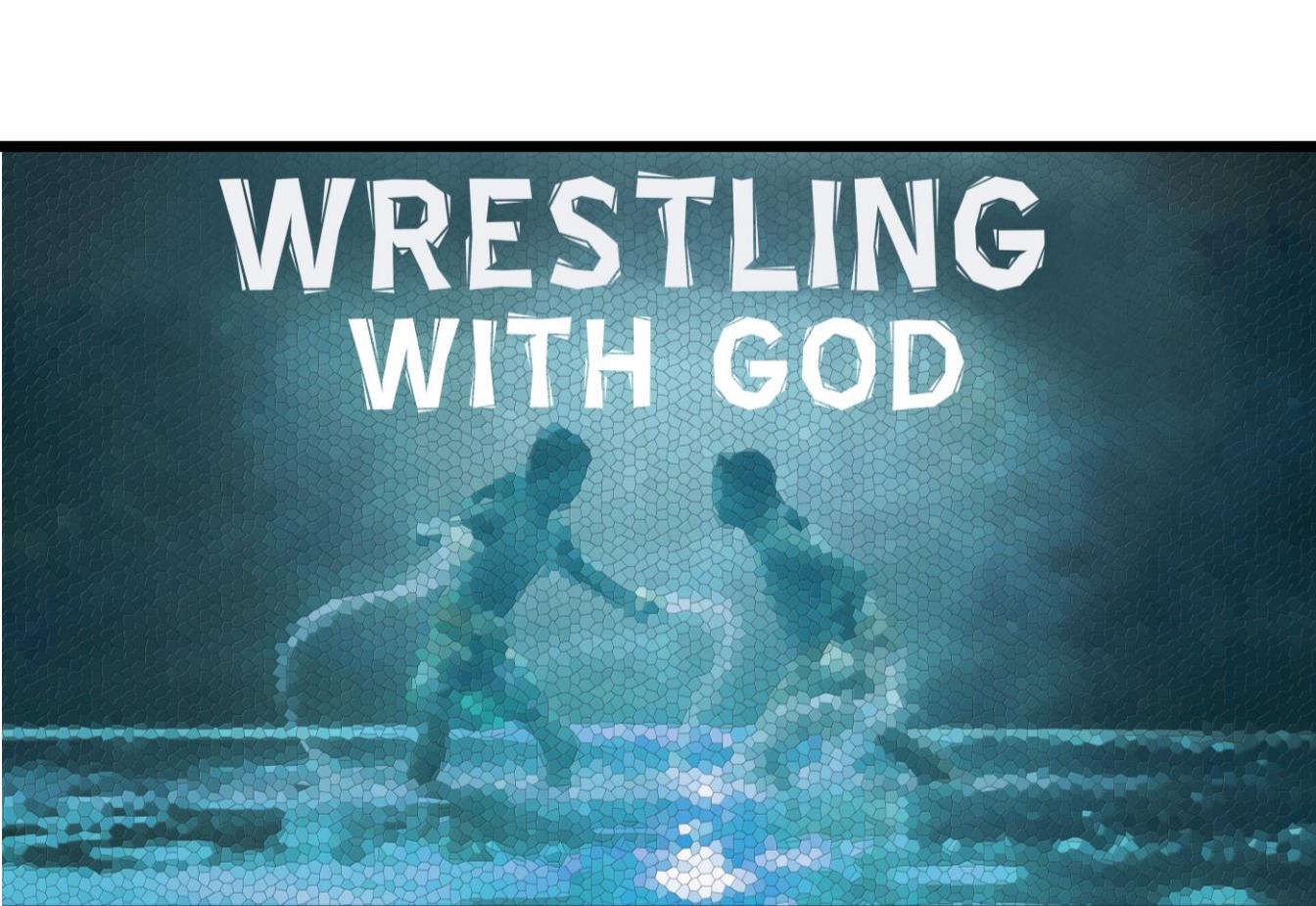


# WRESTLING WITH GOD



Sermon Series

## **WRESTLING WITH GOD** 3) TO UNDERSTAND SUFFERING

*9:00 & 10:15 am      September 13, 2020*



# ROCK OF AGES

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### **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.
- 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 entryway. Volunteers are sanitizing the shared touch points between services.
- 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](http://wels.net)





# The Common Service

*The Common Service is based on the historic liturgy of the Christian Church.*

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## Greeting

## Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory  
*Christian Worship 345*

♪ In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3. When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

## The Invocation

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

# Confession of Sins

You who are loved by the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

# Announcement of Forgiveness

God our heavenly Father has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

# Response of Praise

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty  
*Christian Worship 255:2-3*

♪ **Gracious God, I come before thee;  
Come thou also unto me.  
Where we find thee and adore thee,  
There a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou;  
Let it be thy temple now!**

**3, Here thy praise is gladly chanted; Here thy seed is duly sown.  
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.**

# Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

### First Lesson

Judges 16:23-31

*Through suffering Samson learns to serve his Savior God.*

Meanwhile, the serens of the Philistines gathered to make a great sacrifice to their god Dagon and to celebrate. They said, "Our god has given our enemy Samson into our hands."

<sup>24</sup>When the people saw him, they praised their god: "Our god has given our enemy into our hands, the devastator of our land, who has caused the death of many of us."

<sup>25</sup>When they were feeling good, they said, "Send for Samson, so that he can provide amusement for us." They summoned Samson from the prison, and he served as their entertainment. They made Samson stand between the pillars.

<sup>26</sup>He said to the young man who led him by his hand, "Put me where I can touch the pillars that support the building, so I can lean upon them." <sup>27</sup>The building was full of men and women, as well as all the serens of the Philistines. On the roof were about three thousand more men and women watching Samson as he was amusing them.

<sup>28</sup>Samson called out to the Lord. He said, "Lord God, remember me, I pray. Give me strength, I pray, this one more time, O God. Let me get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes in one act of vengeance." <sup>29</sup>Samson then grasped the two central pillars supporting the building. He leaned against them, one with his right hand and one with his left. <sup>30</sup>Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." He pushed with all his strength, and the building fell upon the serens and upon all the people who were inside.

The Philistines he put to death when he died were more numerous than those he had put to death during his lifetime. <sup>31</sup>Then his brothers and his father's entire household went down, carried him back, and buried him between Zorah and

Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had served as judge of Israel for twenty years.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 121

*Spoken verses with sung refrain*

*Refrain*

Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.

Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains.  
Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot stumble.  
He who watches over you will not slumber.

Yes, he who watches over Israel will not slumber.  
He will not sleep. **Refrain**

The LORD watches over you.  
The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will watch to keep you from all harm.  
He will watch over your life.

The LORD will watch over your going and your coming  
from now to eternity. **Refrain**

## Second Lesson

Galatians 6:12-16

*We cannot avoid persecution without avoiding the life-giving gospel.*

Those who want to look good in the flesh are the ones who are trying to compel you to be circumcised. Their only reason is so that they are not persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>As a matter of fact, those who are circumcised do not keep the law themselves. But they want to have you circumcised, so that they can boast about your flesh.

<sup>14</sup>But far be it from me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>In fact, in Christ Jesus circumcision or uncircumcision does not matter. What matters is being a new creation. <sup>16</sup>Peace and mercy on those who follow this rule, namely, on the Israel of God.

## Verse of the Day

Jeremiah 15:16

Alleluia. Your words came to me, and I devoured them. Your words became my joy, the delight of my heart, because I bear your name, O LORD God of Armies. Alleluia.

## Gospel

Matthew 16:21-26

*All who follow Christ must bear a cross for the sake of the gospel.*

From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

<sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."

<sup>23</sup>But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"

## Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

## **Hymn of the Day**

**Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus**

*Christian Worship 452*

♪ **Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
Follow his example pure,  
Flee the world which would deceive us  
And to sin our souls allure.  
Ever in his footsteps treading,  
Body here, yet soul above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,  
Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, abide with me.  
Savior, lead; I follow thee.**

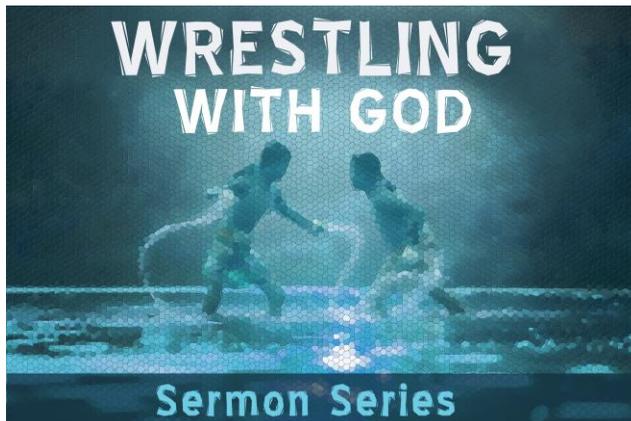
**2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
To his image e'er conform;  
Heaven's glory soon will please us,  
Sunshine follow on the storm.  
Though we sow in tears of sorrow,  
We shall reap in heav'nly joy,  
And the fears that now annoy  
Shall be laughter on the morrow.  
Christ, I suffer here with thee;  
There, oh, share thy joy with me.**

**3. Let us also die with Jesus.  
His death from the second death,  
From our soul's destruction, frees us,  
Quickens us with life's glad breath.  
Let us mortify, while living,  
Flesh and blood and die to sin,  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here I die to thee,  
There to live eternally.**

**4 Let us gladly live with Jesus;  
Since he's risen from the dead,  
Death and grave must soon release us.  
Jesus, thou art now our head.  
We are truly thine own members;  
Where thou livest, there live we.  
Take and own us constantly,  
Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.  
Jesus, here I live to thee,  
Also there eternally.**

## **Sermon**

Matthew 16:21-26



# WRESTING WITH GOD

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.*

*Today you may place your offering on the table by the entryway as you enter or exit.*

## Prayer of the Church

Sundays after Pentecost  
*Christian Worship page 127*

Lord, Our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

**We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

**Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

**Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

**Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote and informed and responsible citizenry.

**Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

**Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

**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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

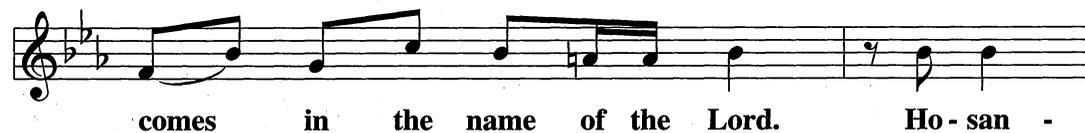
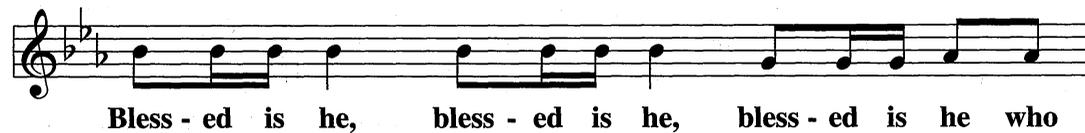
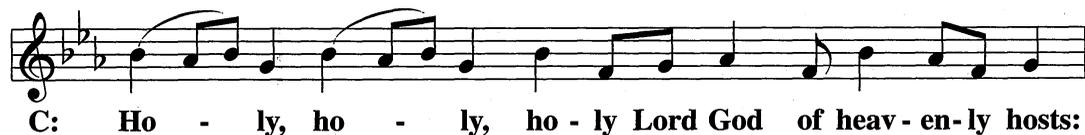
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is good and right so to do.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



# Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Lamb of God, *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - - - men.

## Distribution

*Rock of Ages Lutheran practices close communion. We ask that only members of Rock of Ages Lutheran or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament today. If you have questions about becoming a member to partake of the sacrament, please speak to pastor after worship.*

After the distribution please stand to sing:

## Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**And his mercy endures forever.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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

Jesus, Lead Us On  
*Christian Worship 422*

♪ Jesus, lead us on  
Till our rest is won;  
And although the way be cheerless,  
We will follow, calm and fearless.  
Guide us by your hand  
To our fatherland.

2. If the way be drear, If the foe be near,  
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;  
Let not faith and hope forsake us,  
For through many a woe To our home we go.

3. When we seek relief  
From a long-felt grief,  
When temptations come alluring,  
Make us patient and enduring;  
Show us that bright shore  
Where we weep no more.

4. Jesus, still lead on  
Till our rest is won.  
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us;  
Still support, console, protect us  
Till we safely stand  
In our fatherland.

## Acknowledgments

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## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Remember with Prayer**

- Violette, Janell Sterner's granddaughter; thanks to God for a safe delivery; that he blesses Violette and family with grace, peace, and love.
- All the nations in conflict today; that God would allow his gospel to spread amidst the strife of a sin-torn world and bring his eternal kingdom of peace to every nation.

### **Attendance**

9/06 Sunday Worship: 54

9/09 & 10 Midweek Bible Class: 13

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

**Received in September** \$5,378.28 (to date)

### **Serving This Week**

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

### **Service planning**

The service schedule will remain the same through September. Our schedule is going to be adjusted for October to include a Sunday Bible study. This will most likely involve an October change to 9am service, 10:05 Bible study, 11:15am service. You will receive updates once the new Sunday schedule is confirmed.

### **Special collection**

The situation for the special collection in September has changed. All the special collection received for the month will be set aside for a future "member/special care fund." Thank you for your gift to help others in crisis. The council intends to plan a special committee to oversee future distribution from this fund. It will be used for crisis relief as the need arises.

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

## **CALENDAR**

*rockofages-payson.com/calendar*

**Sunday, September 13** Pentecost 15  
9:00am Worship with Lord's Supper  
10:15am Worship with Lord's Supper

**Tuesday, September 15**  
2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

**Wednesday, September 16**  
12:30pm Mary & Martha  
6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

**Thursday, September 17**  
9:00am Midweek Bible Class

**Sunday, September 20** Pentecost 16  
9:00am Worship  
10:15am Worship

### **First Responders Dinner**

October 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm. Sign-up in the narthex if you would like to help support this event in anyway.



*RockofAges-Payson.com*

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