

# WRESTLING WITH GOD



## **WRESTLING WITH GOD** 4) TO OBTAIN A CLEAN HEART

*9:00 & 10:15 am      September 20, 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)





# Morning Praise

*Morning Praise is based on the historic service called "Matins." Joined to Christ, our risen Lord, we glorify God as we rise to the activities of this new day.*

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## Greeting

## Responses

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.**

"Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "Peace to this house."

**Peace to all of you who are in Christ.**

The LORD gives strength to his people;  
**the LORD blesses his people with peace.**

## Hymn

Father, We Praise You  
*Christian Worship 581*

♪ **Father, we praise you, now the night is over.  
Active and watchful, standing now before you,  
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation;  
Thus we adore you.**

**2. Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;  
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending.  
Bring us to heaven, where your saints united  
Joy without ending.**

**3. All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,  
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;  
Yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding  
Through all creation.**

# Confession & Absolution

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered

**Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**According to your promises in Jesus Christ.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

God our merciful Father, has forgiven all your sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

Purify My Heart

*9:00am service, sung by 4 For Christ*

## Response of Praise

O Lord, open my lips.

**And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

Hasten to save me, O God.

**O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

Praise be to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: let us worship him.

# Psalm 95

Come, Let Us Worship And Bow Down - *Venite*



Come, let us wor-ship and— bow down, let us



kneel before the Lord, our God, our Mak - er.



Come, let us wor-ship and— bow down, let us



kneel before the Lord, our God, our Mak - er. For



He\_\_\_\_\_ is our God, and



we are the peo - ple of His pas - ture, and the



sheep\_\_\_\_\_ of His hand, just the



sheep\_\_\_\_\_ of His hand.

# First Lesson

Ezekiel 33:7-11

*The Lord desires that all repent*

But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. <sup>8</sup>When I say to a wicked man, "Wicked man, you shall surely die," if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. <sup>9</sup>But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>So you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel.

This is what you people are saying: "Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away. How then can we live?"

<sup>11</sup>Say to them, "As I live, declares the LORD God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?"

# Psalm of the Day

Psalm 51

*David repented with faith in God's great mercy.*

When Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone to Bathsheba.

<sup>1</sup>Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy.

Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion.

<sup>2</sup>Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I admit my rebellious acts. My sin is always in front of me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned, and I have done this evil in your eyes.

So you are justified when you sentence me. You are blameless when you judge.

<sup>5</sup>Certainly, I was guilty when I was born. I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>Since you desire truth on the inside, in my hidden heart you teach me wisdom.

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness. Let the bones you have crushed celebrate.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins. Erase all my guilty deeds.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God. Renew an unwavering spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence. Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation. Sustain me with a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup>I will teach rebels your ways, and sinners will turn to you.

<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, the God who saves me.

My tongue will shout for joy about your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup>Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>For you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.

You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.

A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.

<sup>18</sup>As it pleases you, do good for Zion.

Build up the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup>Then you will be pleased with righteous sacrifices, burnt offerings and whole offerings.

Then bulls will be offered up on your altar.

## Second Lesson

Galatians 2:11-21

*We are justified through faith, not by works.*

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly wrong. <sup>12</sup>For before some people came from James, he ate with the Gentiles. But when those people came, he drew back and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>And the rest of the Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that they were not acting according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, "If you, a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews?"

<sup>15</sup>"We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners. <sup>16</sup>We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. So we also believed in Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. <sup>17</sup>But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were also found to be sinners, then is Christ a servant of sin? Certainly not!

<sup>18</sup>“In fact, if I build up again those things that I destroyed, I bring on myself the judgment of being a lawbreaker. <sup>19</sup>Indeed, through the law I died to the law that I might live for God. <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I am now living in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not regard the grace of God as nothing. As a matter of fact, if righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nothing!”

## Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

*Sin should be properly dealt with to lead the sinner to repentance.*

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. <sup>20</sup>In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them.

## Seasonal Response

Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;

**Make known among the nations what he has done.**

## Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace--How Sweet the Sound

*Christian Worship 379*

♪ **Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound--**

**That saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost but now am found,**

**Was blind but now I see.**

**2. The Lord has promised good to me;**

**His Word my hope secures.**



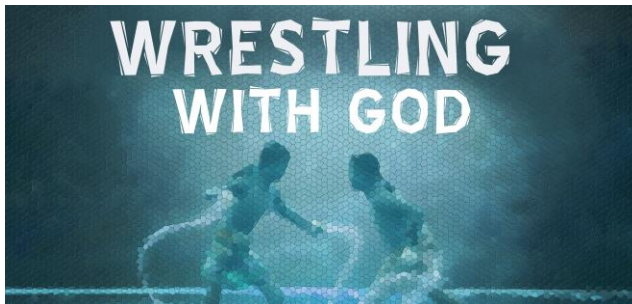
**He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

**3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**4. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.**

## **Sermon**

Psalm 51



### **WRESTLING 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 (*Psalm 51a*)

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

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

# Psalm 51

Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cre Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, O Lord, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from  
me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal -  
va - tion, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## Confession of Faith

We Praise You, O God

*Te Deum Laudamus*

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;  
**all creation worships you, Father everlasting.**

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, cherubim and seraphim, sing in  
endless praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts, heaven and earth are full  
of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

**The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.**

The white robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:

**Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

**When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin.**

You overcame the sting of death

**and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

**We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood,

**and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting. 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 church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You are invited to place your offering on the table by the entryway on your way in or as you exit.*

## Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*



**M:** In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

# 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 of the Day

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, you Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Special Prayers

*Special prayer requests are spoken concluding with...* through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen**

# Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me  
*Christian Worship 389*

♪ **Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood  
From thy riven side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure:  
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**2. Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill thy law's demands.  
Could my zeal no respite know,**

**Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save and thou alone.**

**3. Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to thee for dress,  
Helpless, look to thee for grace.  
Foul, I to the fountain fly --  
Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

**4. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!**

## **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.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Closing Doxology**

*Jude 24-25*

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault, and with great joy, to the only God, our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority through Jesus Christ, our Lord before all ages, now and forevermore.

**Amen.**

# Closing Hymn

Children of the Heavenly Father  
*Christian Worship 449*

♪ **Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge ne'er was given.**

**2. God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish;  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

**3. Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**4. Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.**

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Remember with Prayer**

- Lori, daughter-in-law of Gary and Carrol Wendt, who has cirrhosis of the liver; that God would guide the doctors, provide healing, and keep her in his peace during this difficult time.

### **Attendance**

9/09 Confirmation Class: 2

9/13 Sunday Worship: 62

9/16 & 17 Midweek Bible Class: *(printed earlier)*

**Received in September** \$8,298.78 *(to date)*

### **Serving This Week**

Flowers, Communion Setup: Barbara Miller  
Music: 9:00 am Jeni Strickland. Keyboard; 4 For Christ; 10:15am Lydia Barthel, Ukulele  
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.

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

## **CALENDAR**

*rockofages-payson.com/calendar*

### **Sunday, September 20 Pentecost 16**

9:00am Worship

10:15am Worship

### **Monday, September 21**

6:00pm Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, September 23**

2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

### **Thursday, September 24**

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

### **Sunday, September 27 Pentecost 17**

9:00am Worship with Lord's Supper

10:15am Worship with Lord's Supper

### **Wednesday, September 30**

2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

### **Thursday, October 1**

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

### **Sunday, October 4 Pentecost 18**

9:00am Service

10:05am Bible Study

11:15am Service

### **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.



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