

WRESTLING WITH GOD

5) TO SEE EVERYTHING WORK FOR GOOD

9:00 & 10:15 am September 27, 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.
- 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





Divine Service II

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian Church

Greeting

Hymn

To God Be the Glory
Christian Worship 399:1-2

♪ **1 To God be the glory; great things he has done!
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory -- great things he has done!**

**2. Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory -- great things he has done!**

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

Absolution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Mark 10:47

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

Amen.

Response of Praise

To God Be the Glory
Christian Worship 399:3

♪ **Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see.**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son

And give him the glory -- great things he has done!

THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson

Genesis 50:15-21

The Lord accomplishes his good purposes

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 73

Christian Worship page 94

Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.



I am always with you, O Lord;
You hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,
And afterwary you will take me into glory.

Whome have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

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. **Refrain**

Second Lesson

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Forgiveness flows from the life of those who know and trust Christ

Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Verse of the Day

(Romans 15:4)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Refusal to forgive others is a rejection of God's forgiveness

Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?"

²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶"Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, 'Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!' ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

²⁹"So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹"When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²"Then his master called him in and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵"This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Good News of God Above

Christian Worship 588

♪ **Good news of God above
Is ours to tell abroad,
The Father's everlasting love
In Christ the risen Lord.
For neighbors near and far
The seed of life is sown;
Then spread the seed
By word and deed
To make the Savior known.**

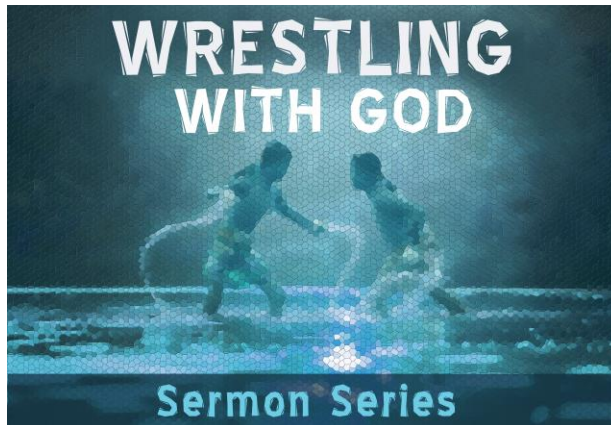
**2. The love of Christ proclaim
Who left his home on high;
To live our human life he came,
Our human death to die.
The Father's only Son
Became the sinners' friend,
Our lot to share,
Our sin to bear,
And death's dominion end.**

**3. The Lord of Glory lives!
From cross and death and grave
His own abundant life he gives
To those he died to save.
His righteousness and peace
Declare from sea to sea;
His praises sound The world around
For Christ has made us free.**

**4. Hear now the Master's word
To those who bear his name:
"So send I you; till all have heard,
Make known, declare, proclaim!"
Go forth in all the earth;
Embrace the path he trod
With Christ beside
As friend and guide
To bring good news of God.**

Sermon

Genesis 50:15-21



WRESTLING 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

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.

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 church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Today the offerings can be placed on the table as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

Prayer of the Church

Christian Worship Page 32

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he comes.

Preface

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 has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Sung to the tune of CW 19

**Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage— Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.

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*

♪ **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 your peace.
Amen.**

Distribution

Rock of Ages Lutheran practices close communion. We kindly 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:

Hymn

Nunc Dimittis (tune of CW 336)

♪ **O Lord, now let your servant Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory Of those in Israel!**

Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift

you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Christian Worship 451

♪ **Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Share your requests and thanksgiving.

Attendance

9/17 Confirmation Class: 2

9/16 & 17 Midweek Bible Class: 12

9/20 Sunday Worship: 48

Received in September \$9,818.53 *(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

Our schedule is going to be adjusted for October to include a Sunday Bible study. This will involve an October change to 9am service, 10:05 Bible study, 11:15am service.

Sunday Bible Class

Join us for a three-part video & discussion in October on "American Gospel: Christ Crucified." We'll then begin a ten-part apologetics series "Ten Questions; Ten Answers" This is the part 2 companion to our Fall 2018 study.

Acknowledgments

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Please take this service folder home with you today.

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

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

Marty-Martha Fundraiser

The fundraiser Bake & Sale planned for this month has been postponed due to the pandemic.



RockofAges-Payson.com

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