

SAINTS TRIUMPHANT

9:00 & 11:15 am November 15, 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. 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





Festival Service

A special service for Saints Triumphant Sunday.

Greeting

Hymn

Blessed Are They

Christian Worship Supplement 730

Brass introduction

Refrain

**♪ Blessed are they which are called,
Blessed are they which are called,
Blessed are they which are called
To the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

**1. Multitudes, clothed in white robes, From ev'ry nation and tongue,
Stood before God and the Lamb At the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

**2. They'll neither hunger nor thirst, Death, sorrow, pain vanquished
now, God wipes all tears from their eyes By the marriage feast of the
Lamb.**

Refrain

**3. Blessing and honor, they cry, Unto the Lamb that was slain,
Redeeming us with his blood In the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

**4. Servant, saint, martyr at rest Sanctified, ransomed, restored,
Thund'rously sing a new song Of the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

Refrain

**5. Worthy are you, Lamb of God, To receive glory and praise.
Alleluia and amen! For the marriage feast of the Lamb.**

Refrain

The Invocation

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

Amen.

Gathering Rite

Saints Triumphant Sunday

Christian Worship 550 with readings from Revelation 1,3,7

The Lord tells his people,

“I rebuke and discipline those whom I love.

So take this seriously and repent.” (Rev 3:19)

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.

Our Lord Jesus has forgiven all your sins. By his perfect life and death, you have been redeemed. The living and victorious Jesus now says, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last—the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell. (Rev 1:17-18)

Amen. Thanks be to God!

After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb

They were clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands.

They called out with a loud voice and said:

Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 7)

♪ Behold a host, arrayed in white,
Like thousand snow-clad mountains bright;
With palms they stand. Who is this band
Before the throne of light?

These are the saints of glorious fame,
Who from the great affliction came
And in the flood Of Jesus' blood
Are cleansed from guilt and blame.

Now gathered in the holy place,
Their voices they in worship raise.
Their anthems swell Where God does dwell
Mid angels' songs of praise.

These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes

and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

♪ Despised and scorned, they sojourned here;
But now, how glorious they appear!
Those martyrs stand, A priestly band,
God's throne forever near.

So oft in troubled days gone by,
In anguish they would weep and sigh;
At home above The God of love
Fore'er their tears shall dry.

They now enjoy the Sabbath rest,
The heav'nly banquet of the blest;
The Lamb, their Lord, At festive board
Himself is host and guest.

We give you thanks today especially for the saints who have gone before us and now stand in victory through Jesus their Savior.

Today we remember especially and praise you for those who confessed the faith at Rock of Ages and were called to glory this past year:

09/29/20	Henry Brumley
04/12/20	Charles Tyrell
03/29/20	James Strong
02/13/20	William McClymonds

Because they are washed in Jesus' blood,
And clothed in his righteousness

they are in front of the throne of God,
and they serve him day and night in his temple.

He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.
They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again.

The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of living water.
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

♪ **O blessed saints, now take your rest;
A thousand times you will be blest
For keeping faith firm unto death
and scorning worldly trust.
For now you live at home with God;
You toiled and sowed the Word abroad.
Rejoice and bring your fruits and sing
Before the throne of God.
The myriad angels raise the song;
O saints, sing with that happy throng!
Lift up one voice; let heav'n rejoice
In our Redeemer's song!**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, 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

Ezekiel 37:15-28

God will shepherd his people forever.

The word of the Lord came to me.

¹⁶Now you, son of man, take one piece of wood and write on it: "Belonging to Judah and belonging to the people of Israel associated with him." Then take another piece of wood and write on it: "Belonging to Joseph, Ephraim's piece of wood, and the whole house of Israel associated with him." ¹⁷Then hold one piece of wood close to the other to make a single board for yourself, so that they are one in your hand.

¹⁸When your countrymen say to you, "Won't you tell us what you mean by these things?" ¹⁹you tell them, "This is what the Lord God says. I am going to take the piece of wood which is in the hand of Ephraim, which is for Joseph and for the tribes of Israel associated with him, and I will attach it to the piece of wood for Judah. In this way I will make them one board, so that they will be one in my hand." ²⁰The boards on which you will write should be in your hand in front of their eyes.

²¹Then say this to them. This is what the Lord God says. I am going to take the people of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from all around, and I will bring them to their own land. ²²I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will be king for all of them. Never again will they be two nations, and never again will they be divided into two kingdoms. ²³Never again will they defile themselves with their filthy idols, with their disgusting practices, and with all their rebellious actions. I will save them from all their backsliding by which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴My servant David will be King over them, and they will all have one Shepherd. They will follow my ordinances and be conscientious about keeping my statutes. ²⁵They will live on the land I gave my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live there permanently—they, their children, and their grandchildren—and my servant David will be their prince forever. ²⁶I will make a covenant of peace with them. It will be an everlasting covenant with them. I will establish them, and I will multiply them and set my sanctuary in their midst forever. ²⁷My Dwelling Place will be over them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸Then the nations will know that I, the Lord, make Israel holy when my holy place is in their midst forever.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 84

Congregation sings the refrain

♪ Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

¹How I love your dwelling place, O LORD of Armies.

²My soul grows weak and even wastes away,
as I long for the courtyards of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow has found a nest for herself,
where she may place her young near your altars,
O LORD of Armies, my King and my God.

⁴How blessed are those who live in your house.
They are always praising you.

♪ Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

⁵How blessed is everyone whose strength is found in you.
The highways to Jerusalem are in their hearts.

⁶As they pass through the Valley of Baca,
it becomes full of springs.

The autumn rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength.

Each one will appear before God in Zion.

♪ Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

⁸O LORD, God of Armies, hear my prayer.

Give ear, O God of Jacob.

⁹Look upon our Shield, O God.
Look with favor on the face of your Anointed One.

♪ Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

¹⁰Yes, one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather wait at the doorway of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹For the LORD is a sun and shield.
God gives grace and glory.
The LORD does not withhold any good thing
from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O LORD of Armies, how blessed is everyone who trusts in you.

♪ Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Second Lesson

Revelation 19:1-9

The wedding feast of the Lamb will be glorious

After these things I heard what seemed to be the loud sound of an immense crowd in heaven, saying: Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ²for his judgments are true and just, because he has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and he has avenged his servants' blood that was shed by her hand.

³A second time they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke goes up forever and ever."

⁴Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures bowed down and worshipped God, who sits on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

⁵And from the throne came a voice that said, "Praise our God, all you his servants and you who fear him, small and great."

⁶And I heard what seemed to be the roar of a large crowd or the roar of many waters or the sound of loud rumblings of thunder, saying:

Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory, because the wedding of the Lamb has come. His bride has made herself ready, ⁸and she was given bright, clean, fine linen to wear.

(In fact, the fine linen is the "not guilty" verdicts pronounced on the saints.)

⁹The angel said to me, "Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb." He also said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Verse of the Day

(Revelation 7:15a)

Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus instructs us to remain ready for his coming

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; ⁴but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' ¹²But he answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' ¹³Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

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.

Hymn of the Day

Jerusalem the Golden
Christian Worship 214

Brass introduction

♪ Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest --
The sight of it refreshes
The weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not
What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory,
What bliss beyond compare.

2. They stand, those halls of Zion, All jubilant with song
And bright with many an angel And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them; The daylight is serene;
The pastures of the blessed Are ever rich and green.

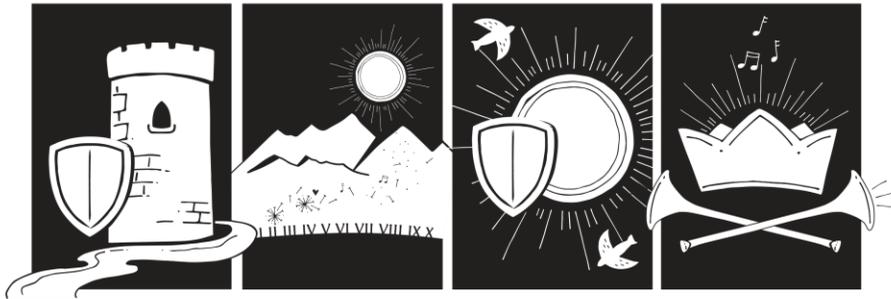
3. There is the throne of David,
And there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph,
The song of them that feast;
And they who with their leader Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.

4. Oh, sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
Oh, sweet and blessed country
That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest;
You are with God the Father
And Spirit ever blest.

Sermon

Psalm 84

PSALMS



FOR THE SEASON OF END TIMES

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Nov 1 | Reformation – Psalm 46 |
| Nov 8 | Last Judgment – Psalm 90 |
| Nov 15 | <u>Saints Triumphant</u> – Psalm 84 |
| Nov 22 | Christ the King – Psalm 47 |

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

Mission of the Church
Christian Worship page 129

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessing we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.

Doxology

Jude 24-25 (NIV 84)

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. Amen.

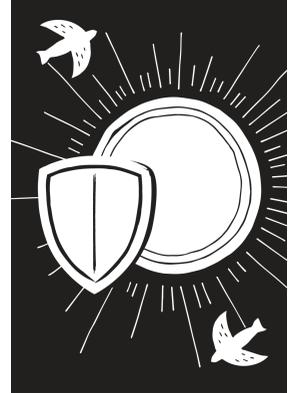
Amen.

Hymn

There is a Higher Throne
Christian Worship Sup. 727

♪ **There is a higher throne
than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace;
salvation comes.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
their thund'rous anthem rings.
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high
forevermore.*



**2. And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne.
We'll honor him in perfect song
where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd-King;
we'll reign with him.**

Refrain

Acknowledgments

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Meriel, friend of Mario Ascoli; God blessed her with a baby boy born earlier this month. However, his life was short; that God be with all who grieve and guide them with his love.
- Mary Strong, who had a small heart attack last week; that God guide the doctors as they determine future care; that he continues to watch over Mary each day with his loving arms.
- Kim, daughter of Mary Strong; thanks to God she has been able to leave the hospital and is regaining her memory after a sudden collapse and loss of oxygen; that he gives her a safe return home and a full recovery.
- Thanks to God for all the saints in glory and the members of the body of believers at Rock of Ages called to glory this past year (see page 6); that God comforts us all with his gospel.
- That God brings many more to his righteousness through faith in Christ by his gospel spread at Rock of Ages and everywhere.
- The friends and family of young Cody Kermeen who accidently was killed while working on his car last week Saturday; that God brings his gospel and his aid for all who grieve.
- Doris Strickland's 17 year old great granddaughter, also named Doris who is suffering from seizures; that God give healing and help the doctors with providing good treatment so that she can overcome the complications and struggles she faces.

Attendance

11/04 Confirmation Class: 2
11/04 & 5 Midweek Bible Study: 11
11/05 Starting Point Class: 3
11/08 Sunday Worship: 53
11/08 Sunday Bible Class: 22

Received in November \$8,452.82 (to date)

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, November 15 *Saints Triumphant*

9:00am Service
10:05am Bible Study
11:15am Service

Monday, November 16

6:00pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 18

12:30pm Mary & Martha
2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class
6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

Thursday, November 19

9:00am Midweek Bible Class
10:00am Starting Point Class

Sunday, November 22 *Crist the King*

9:00 & 11:15am Service with Lord's Supper
10:05am Bible Study

Wednesday, November 25

2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 26 *Thanksgiving*

9:00am Thanksgiving Worship

Serving This Week

Flowers, Communion Setup: Grace Popelier
Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ
Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel
Ushers: Jerry Zuvich (9:00), Del Kary (11:15)



RockofAges-Payson.com

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