



## **THE RULER FROM BETHLEHEM WILL SHEPHERD HIS FLOCK**

*Second Sunday after Christmas  
9:00 & 11:15am January 3, 2021*



# ROCK OF AGES

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reaching Out in Rim Country with Rock-Solid Hope in Jesus

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### Welcome!

- May the message you hear today 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](http://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.*

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## Greeting

## Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High  
*Christian Worship 63*

♪ Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## 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

Silent Night

*Christian Worship 60:1,3*

♪ **Silent night! Holy night!**  
**All is calm, all is bright,**  
**Round yon virgin mother and child.**  
**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**3. Silent night! Holy night!**  
**Son of God, love's pure light**  
**Radiant beams from thy holy face**  
**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**  
**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

# Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

### First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

*God ruler from David's town will bring perfect peace.*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace.

### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
**praise him in the heights above.**

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;  
**praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
**praise him, all you shining stars.**

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens  
**and you waters above the skies.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
**for at his command they were created,**

<sup>6</sup> and he established them for ever and ever—  
**he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
**you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,**

<sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
**stormy winds that do his bidding,**

<sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills,  
**fruit trees and all cedars,**

<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle,  
**small creatures and flying birds,**

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all nations,  
**you princes and all rulers on earth,**

<sup>12</sup> young men and women,  
**old men and children.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
**for his name alone is exalted;  
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

<sup>14</sup> And he has raised up for his people a horn,  
**the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his  
heart. Praise the LORD.**

## **Second Lesson**

**Hebrews 2:10-18**

*Jesus shared in our humanity to suffer and save us all.*

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and

those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises."

<sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them,<sup>m</sup> fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## 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

(Psalm 98:3b)

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.

## Gospel

John 7:40-43

*The Messiah was born in Bethlehem and lived in Galilee.*

On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

<sup>41</sup> Others said, "He is the Messiah."

Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee?" <sup>42</sup> Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" <sup>43</sup> Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

*After the gospel reading:*

The words and works of our King!

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# Hymn of the Day

Once in Royal David's City  
*Christian Worship 50:1-2*

♪ **Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**2. He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

## Sermon

Micah 5:2-5a

*GOD'S RULER FROM BETHLEHEM REIGNS FOR US*

- 1) ON THE BASIS OF DIVINE AUTHORITY*
- 2) BRINGING FULL SECURITY*



## Hymn of the Response

Once in Royal David's City  
*Christian Worship 50:3-4*

**3. But our eyes at last shall see him Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above,  
And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.**

**4. Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children crowned, All in white, his praise will sound.**

# 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.**

## 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). Today's offering can be placed on the entry table as you enter or exit.*

## Prayer of the Church

*For the new year*

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

It is fitting, O Lord, as we begin a new year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself –all these come to use from your generous hand.

**We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercession may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began the past year; in his name we begin the next. In him we ask for blessing as we begin another year.**

## 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.**

## Closing Prayer & Blessing

Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new year and 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.**

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**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*Christian Worship 65*

♪ **O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**2. For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.**

**3. How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts To human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will Receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin And enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, Abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Remember with Prayer**

- Mary Strong; that God bless her heart valve repair surgery planned for Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Attendance**

12/24 Christmas Eve: 64  
12/25 Christmas Day: 39  
12/27 Sunday Worship: 49  
12/27 Sunday Bible Class: 17

**Received in December** \$12,229.82 (as of Dec 27<sup>th</sup>)

### **Serving This Week**

Flowers, Communion Setup: Joan Williams,  
Marsha Wentz  
Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ  
Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel  
Ushers: Creig Solomon, Jerry Zuvich

### **Acknowledgments**

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## **CALENDAR**

*rockofages-payson.com/calendar*

**Friday, January 1, 2021** *New Year's Day*  
9:00am New Year's Day Worship

**Sunday, January 3, 2021** *Christmas 2*  
9:00am Service  
10:05am Bible Study  
11:15am Service  
12:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**  
9:00am Christmas Decoration Take Down

**Wednesday, January 6, 2021** *Epiphany*  
9:00am Elders Meeting

**Thursday, January 7, 2021**  
9:00am Circuit meeting at Cornville

**Sunday, January 10, 2021** *The Baptism of Our Lord*  
9:00am Service with Lord's Supper  
10:05am Bible Study  
11:15am Service with Lord's Supper  
12:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**  
6:00pm Midweek Bible Class



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