



THE GOSPEL SEED PRODUCES A HARVEST

9:00 & 10:15 am July 26, 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.
- Children's activity bags, quiet toys, and a changing table are available from the nursery in 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 narthex. Volunteers are sanitizing all shared touch points between services.
- 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

Speak, O Lord

Christian Worship Supplement 735

♪ **Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.**

**2. Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built
And you fill the earth with your glory.**

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.

Hymn of Praise

Dear Christians One and All Rejoice

Christian Worship 277:1-2,4

♪ **Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!**

**2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell;
Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.**

**4. But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.**

THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; 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

Isaiah 50:10-13

The Word of God produces results like the fields receiving rain.

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and do not return there
unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout,
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth
will not return to me empty.

Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

¹²Yes, you will go out with joy,
and in peace you will be carried along.
The mountains and the hills will break out in shouts of joy before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

¹³Instead of thorns, a fir tree will grow up.
Instead of briars, a myrtle tree will grow up.
This will make a name for the LORD.
It will serve as an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.

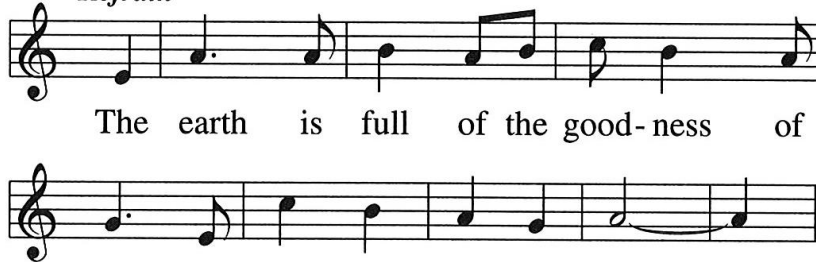


Psalm of the Day

Psalm 65

*All join in signing the refrain
Verses spoken responsively as indicated*

Refrain



The earth is full of the good-ness of
God, the good-ness of our God.

³The record of my guilt overpowered me.

You atone for our rebellious acts.

⁴How blessed is the one you choose and bring near!

He will dwell in your courtyards.

We will be satisfied by the goodness of your house,

by the holiness of your temple.

⁵In righteousness you answer us with awesome deeds,

O God who saves us.

He is trusted by all the farthest ends of the earth and the sea.

♪ The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

⁶He establishes the mountains by his power.

He has wrapped himself with strength.

⁷He stills the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the peoples.

⁸Those living at the ends of the earth fear your signs.

From sunrise to sunset you let them shout for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it.

You make it very rich.

God's stream is filled with water.

You provide grain for them, just as you planned.

¹⁰You drench the land's furrows. You flatten its plowed ground.

You soften it with showers. You bless its crops.

♪ The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness.

The tracks made by your carts overflow with riches.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness drip.

The hills are wrapped with joy.

¹³The meadows are clothed with flocks.

The valleys are dressed with grain.

They shout for joy.

Yes! They sing.

**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.**

♪ The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

Second Lesson

Acts 18:1-11

The gospel seed is sown with different results, but always fruit is found.

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla,

because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them.³Because he had the same occupation, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers by trade.⁴Every Sabbath he led a discussion in the synagogue, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was entirely devoted to preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.⁶But when they opposed Paul and slandered him, he shook out his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"

⁷He left that place and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.⁸Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

⁹One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking, and do not be silent.¹⁰For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, because I have many people in this city."¹¹He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Children's Message

All children 5th grade and under are invited to come to the front area. Helpers and parents are welcome to join them.

Verse of the Day

Deuteronomy 30:14

Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus defends marriage as a life-long union of one man and one woman.

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea.²A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore.³He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow.⁴As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it.⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep.⁶But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away.⁷Other seed

fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. ⁸But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

¹⁸"So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path.

²⁰The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure.

When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²²The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown."

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast
Christian Worship 324

♪ **Almighty God, your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.**

**2. Let not the foe of Christ and man
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.**

**3. Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.**

**4. Whene'er the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.**

Sermon

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

THE SIMPLE SOWING OF THE WORD WILL PRODUCE A CROP

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.

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.

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.

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 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!**

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

Almighty Father, Bless the Word

Christian Worship 323

♪ **Almighty Father, bless the word
Which through your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit.**

**We praise you for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Cassandra Barajas and three children with her household Angel, Armando, and Eryk who were all baptized last Sunday; that God keeps them strong in faith and blesses them always through his gospel and by his Spirit's working.
- Maco, friend of Janell Sterner, who lost his wife Mary due to a heart attack; thanks to God for bringing Mary to faith in Jesus; that the sure hope of the resurrection comforts all who grieve.
- Thanks to God for sending our area rain.
- *Share your requests*

Attendance

7/15 & 16 Bible Study: 15

7/19 Sunday Worship: 57

Received in July: \$11,280.82 (to date)

Serving This Week

Communion Setup: Marlene Nielsen

Flowers: Della Kary

Music: (9:00am) Keyboard, Sydney Peterson;

(10:15am) Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Barthel

Ushers: (10:15am) Del Kary

Acknowledgments

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

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, July 26 Pentecost 8

9:00am Worship

10:15am Worship

Tuesday, July 28

3:45pm Youth Discipleship Group

Wednesday, July 29

6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

Thursday, July 30

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

Sunday, August 2 Pentecost 9

9:00am Worship

10:15am Worship

Sunday, August 9 Pentecost 10

9:00am Worship

10:15am Worship

Meditation Booklets

Guests, please help yourself to the new "Meditations" booklets in the entryway.



RockofAges-Payson.com

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