

# WRESTLING WITH GOD



**Sermon Series**

## **WRESTLING WITH GOD**

6) TO COMPREHEND HIS GRACE

*9:00 & 11:15 am      October 4, 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)





# 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

By Grace I'm Saved  
*Christian Worship 384:1-4*

♪ **By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why waver at this word of promise?  
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
So then this word must true remain:  
By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.**

**2. By grace God's Son, our only Savior,  
Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit  
That Jesus died, your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone,  
That brought him from his heav'nly throne.**

**3. By grace! Oh, mark this word of promise  
When you are by your sins oppressed,  
When Satan plagues your troubled conscience,  
And when your heart is seeking rest.  
What reason cannot comprehend  
God by his grace to you did send.**

**4. By grace to timid hearts that tremble,  
In tribulation's furnace tried --  
By grace, despite all fear and trouble,  
The Father's heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure  
If grace were not my anchor sure?**

## 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

By Grace I'm Saved  
*Christian Worship 384:5*

♪ **By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice.  
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad; all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.**

### Prayer of the Day

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing

obedience; through 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

**Jonah 4:5-11**

*Jonah fails to appreciate God's incomprehensible grace for sinners*

Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city.

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup>But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" Jonah said, "I do have a right to be angry—angry enough to die!"

<sup>10</sup>So the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. <sup>11</sup>So should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?"

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 78

*Christian Worship Hymnal page 95*

*Refrain*



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

*Psalm tone*



O my people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.

I will utter things from of old,  
what we have heard and what our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from our children;  
we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.

### **Refrain**

The LORD decreed statutes for Jacob  
and established the law in Israel,

so the next generation would know them,  
and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God  
and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

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**

**Romans 9:6b-16**

*God's choice is based on his mercy*

This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, <sup>7</sup>and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." <sup>8</sup>This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. <sup>9</sup>For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

<sup>10</sup>Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac.

<sup>11</sup>Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue—<sup>12</sup>not by works but because of him who calls

us—it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.” <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

<sup>14</sup>What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not! <sup>15</sup>For God says to Moses: I will show mercy to whom I show mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

<sup>16</sup>So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

## 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

(2 Corinthians 12:9a)

Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.  
Alleluia

## Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

*Jealousy of God’s grace is rooted in the failure to appreciate his grace*

Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. <sup>4</sup>To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

<sup>7</sup>“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

<sup>9</sup>“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. <sup>11</sup>After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: <sup>12</sup>‘Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

<sup>13</sup>“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. <sup>15</sup>Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

*After the gospel reading:*

The words and works of our King!

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

## Hymn of the Day

**Salvation Unto Us Has Come**

*Christian Worship 390:1-4*

♪ **Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor.  
Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is the one Redeemer.**

**2. What God does in his law demand  
And none to him can render  
Brings wrath and woe on ev'ry hand  
For man, the vile offender.  
Our flesh has not those pure desires  
The spirit of the law requires,  
And lost is our condition.**

**3. It is a false, misleading dream That God his law has given  
That sinners can themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.  
The law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light  
That lurks within our nature.**

**4. Yet as the law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,  
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.  
He has for us the law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed  
Which over us impended.**



# Sermon

Genesis 32:6-32

## WRESTING 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 (*Psalms 51a*)

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

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

## Hymn of Response

Salvation Unto Us Has Come

*Christian Worship 390:5-6*

**5. Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my life indeed,  
For you have paid my ransom.**

**6. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by his grace-- All glory to his merit!  
O Triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed your saving love;  
Your blessed name be hallowed!**

## Confession of Faith

Nicene 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

*Christian Worship page 42*

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.**

# Closing Prayer & Blessing

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.**

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

I Love to Tell the Story  
*Christian Worship 562*

♪ **I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story Because I know it's true;  
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.**

*I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.*

**2. I love to tell the story, For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. [Refrain]**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Remember with Prayer**

- The friends and family of Hank Brumley, who suffered a stroke last week and was called home on Wednesday night; thanks to God for bringing Hank to faith and delivering him from all his troubles; that all who grieve find lasting comfort in the sure hope of the resurrection.
- Donna Lanphear; that God provides comfort, strength, and healing as she battles a returning cancer.

### **Attendance**

9/23 Confirmation Class: 2

9/23 & 24 Midweek Bible Class: 7

9/27 Sunday Worship: 63

10/01 Confirmation Class: 2

10/01 & 02 Midweek Bible Class: 15

**Received in September** \$11,344.53 *(to date)*

### **Thank you**

*Thanks to everyone for your cards and your prayers after the death of my brother. -Cindy Hoff*

### **Sunday Bible Class**

Join us for a three-part video & discussion in October on "American Gospel: Christ Crucified."

### **Acknowledgments**

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## **CALENDAR**

*rockofages-payson.com/calendar*

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

9:00am Service

10:05am Bible Study

11:15am Service

### **Tuesday, October 6**

3:45pm Youth Discipleship Group

### **Wednesday, October 7**

9:00am Elders Meeting

2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

### **Thursday, October 8**

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

### **Sunday, October 11** Pentecost 19

9:00am Service with Lord's Supper

10:05am Bible Study

11:15am Service with Lord's Supper

### **Serving This Week**

Flowers, Communion Setup: Barbara Miller

Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ

Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel

Ushers: Del Kary

### **First Responders Dinner** *October 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm.*

Sign-up in the narthex to serve.



*RockofAges-Payson.com*

204 W. Airport Rd. Payson, AZ 85541 • Office: 928-

474-2098 • [pastorbarthel@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbarthel@gmail.com)

Pastor Tom Barthel • Mobile: 928-612-8463