



REPENTANCE RESULTS IN TRUE OBDIENCE

9:00 & 11:15 am October 25, 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





The Common Service

The Common Service is based on the historic liturgy of the Christian Church.

Greeting

Gathering Rite *Christian Worship Sup. 752, with Scripture readings*

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

Amen.

I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not keep doing what I want.

Instead, I do what I hate; it is sin living in me.

Indeed, I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out.

So I fail to do the good I want to do.

What a miserable wretch I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7)

Where does our help come from?

Our help is in the name of the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1)

♪ **In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

If God is for us, who can be against us?

**Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—
how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?**

Who will bring an accusation against God's elect?

God is the one who justifies!

Who is the one who condemns?

**Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one
who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us!**

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

♪ **In Christ alone—who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.

Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor rulers,

neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces,
**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to
separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 8:28-39)

♪ **There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!**

**And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for us.

Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

♪ **No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

Prayer of the Day

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The need for repentance is universal

The word of the Lord came to me.

²What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, "Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge"? ³As surely as I live, declares the Lord God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel.

⁴Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵But you say, "The Lord's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? ²⁶If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

²⁷But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. ²⁸Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. ²⁹But the house of Israel says, "The Lord's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

³⁰Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. ³¹Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the Lord God. So repent and live!

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25

Christian Worship, page 74

Refrain



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.



To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;*
in you I trust, O my God.

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;*
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD. **Refrain**

Turn to me and be gracious to me,*
for I am lonely and afflicted.

Look upon my affliction and my distress*
and take away all my sins.

Guard my life and rescue me,*
for I take refuge in you.

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

2 Corinthians 13:5-8

We must continue to examine our hearts so that we do not return to evil

Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not know this about yourselves: that Jesus Christ is in you—unless perhaps you fail the test? ⁶But I hope that you will recognize that we are not failing the test.

⁷We pray to God that you may not do anything evil, not so that we may appear to have passed the test, but so that you may do what is good, even if we may seem like those who are failing to pass the test. ⁸To be sure, we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth.

Verse of the Day

(Philippians 2:10,11)

Alleluia. Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

True repentance results in willing obedience

"What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said to him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.

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.

Hymn of the Day

Before You, God, the Judge of All
Christian Worship 306

♪ **Before you, God, the Judge of all,
With grief and shame I humbly fall.
I see my sins against you, Lord,
My sins of thought and deed and word.
They press me sore; to you I flee:
O God, be merciful to me!**

**2. O Lord, my God, to you I pray:
Oh, cast me not in wrath away!
Let your good Spirit ne'er depart,
But let him draw to you my heart
That truly penitent I be:
O God, be merciful to me!**

**3. O Jesus, let your precious blood
Be to my soul a cleansing flood.
Turn not, O Lord, your guest away,
But grant that justified I may
Go to my house at peace to be:
O God, be merciful to me!**

Sermon

The Entrance to the Kingdom is Through True Repentance

- A True Repentance
- A True Obedience
- A True Entrance

Matthew 21:28-32



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

Sundays after Pentecost
Christian Worship page 127

Lord, Our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

We praise you for every grace and blessing.

Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote and informed and responsible citizenry.

Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he

comes again in glory. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score consists of six lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics.

Words of Institution

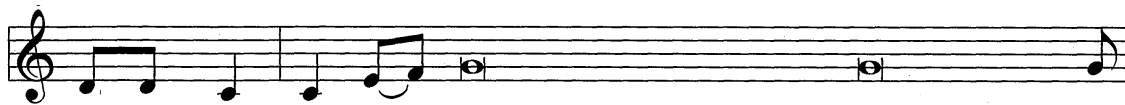
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is

Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

And his mercy endures forever.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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

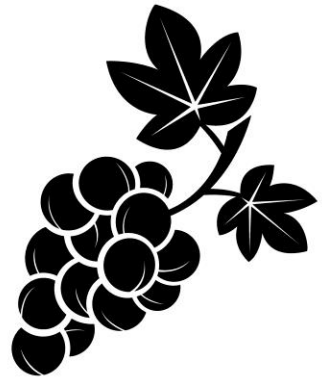
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Christian Worship 402

♪ **My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly thine!**

**2. May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!**

**3. While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.**

**4. When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!**



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- This week was printed earlier. Please share your requests and thanksgiving.

Attendance

(printed early)

Received in October (printed early)

Serving This Week

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

Sunday Bible Class

Join us for "Ten Question, Ten Answers" starting next Sunday at 10:05am.

Voters Meeting

During the regular Bible class time today the voters will be meeting today in the Fellowship Hall.

Acknowledgments

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Order of Service "The Common Service" text and music revised from "The Lutheran Hymnal" 1941

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CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, October 25 *Pentecost 21*

9:00am Service with Lord's Supper
10:15am Voters' Meeting
11:15am Service with Lord's Supper

Wednesday, October 28

5:00pm 1st Responders' Dinner

Saturday, October 31 *Reformation Day*

Sunday, November 1 *Reformation Sunday*

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

Wednesday, November 4

9:00am Elders Meeting
2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class
6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

Thursday, November 5

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

Sunday, November 8 *Last Judgment*

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



RockofAges-Payson.com

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