



**GOD PREPARES YOU FOR HIS COMING**  
**3) WITH HIS SPIRIT HE SANCTIFIES**

*9:00 & 11:15 am      December 13, 2020*



# 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)





# Divine Service II

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

*A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian Church*

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## Greeting

## Hymn

Arise, O Christian People

*Christian Worship 14, stanzas 1-3*

♪ **Arise, O Christian people!**  
**Prepare yourselves today.**  
**Prepare to greet the Savior,**  
**Who takes your sins away.**  
**To us by grace alone**  
**The truth and light was given;**  
**The promised Lord from heaven**  
**To all the world is shown.**

**2. Prepare the way before him;**  
**Prepare for him the best.**  
**Cast out what would offend him,**  
**This great, this heav'nly guest.**  
**Make straight, make plain the way:**  
**The lowly valleys raising,**  
**The heights of pride abasing,**  
**His path all even lay.**

**3. The humble heart and lowly**  
**God raises up on high;**  
**Beneath his feet in terror**  
**The haughty soul shall lie.**  
**The heart sincere and right,**  
**That heeds God's invitation**  
**And makes true preparation --**  
**It is the Lord's delight.**

## 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.**

## Response of Praise

Arise, O Christian People

*Christian Worship 14, stanzas 4*

♪ Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive you  
This blessed Adventtide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing your praises gladly  
And forth your glory show.

# THE WORD

## Prayer of the Day

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Lesson

Malachi 4:1-6

*The Lord will come with fire, judgment, and healing to bring us joy.*

Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the Lord of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in

its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the Lord of Armies.

<sup>4</sup>Remember the law of my servant Moses, which I commanded to him at Horeb to serve as statutes and judgments over all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>Look! I am going to send Elijah the prophet to you before the great and fearful day of the Lord comes! <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with complete destruction.


## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 71

*Christian Worship page 92*

*Congregation joins in refrain and boldface lines*

*Refrain*



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge;

**let me never be put to shame.**

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;  
**turn your ear to me and save me.**

Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;  
**for you are my rock and my fortress.**      *Refrain*

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,  
**and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.**

Even when I am old and gray,  
**do not forsake me, O God,**

Till I declare your power to the next generation,  
**your might to all who are to come.**

**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**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*We will follow the Spirit as we test everything according to God's Word*

Rejoice always. <sup>17</sup>Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup>In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup>Do not extinguish the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not treat prophecies with contempt. <sup>21</sup>But test everything. Hold on to the good. <sup>22</sup>Keep away from every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

## **Verse of the Day**

**(Matthew 11:10)**

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia

## **Gospel**

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

*John's preaching was not about himself, but Jesus*

There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him.

<sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

<sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

<sup>22</sup>Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."

<sup>24</sup>They had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup>"I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup>He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup>These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

*After the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Hymn of the Day

Holy Spirit, Light Divine

*Christian Worship 183*

*Brass Introduction*

♪ **Holy Spirit, Light divine,  
Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the gloom of night away;  
Turn the darkness into day.**

**2. Holy Spirit, Love divine,  
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;  
In your mercy pity me;  
From sin's bondage set me free.**

**3. Holy Spirit, Joy divine,  
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;**



**Fill me with your heav'nly peace;  
Let it grow and still increase.**

**4. Holy Spirit, Pow'r divine,  
Dwell within this heart of mine;  
Cast down ev'ry idol throne;  
Reign supreme and reign alone.**

**5. See, to you I give my heart;  
Cleanse my life in ev'ry part;  
Your own temple I would be  
Now and for eternity.**

## **Sermon**

1 Thes. 5:16-24

Advent 2020

### **God Prepares You For His Coming**

- Nov 29 With His Cleansing He Saves (*1 Peter 3:18-22*)  
Dec 6 With His Messengers He Calls (*Mark 1:1-8*)  
Dec 13 With His Spirit He Sanctifies (*1 Thes. 5:16-24*)  
Dec 20 With His Gospel He Strengthens (*Ro. 16:25-27*)

## **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. Today the offerings can be placed on the table as you enter or exit.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Christian Worship Page 32*

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people.

Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 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 comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. 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*

♪ **O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven In countless ways recite.  
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy Receive our fervent cry.**

**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 kindly 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!**

## Prayer

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 lift up his countenance upon you and (+) give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

**Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes**

*Christian Worship 12*

♪ **Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**2. He comes the captives to release,  
In Satan's prison held.  
The gates of brass before him burst;  
The iron fetters yield.**

**3. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.**

**4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Your welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With your beloved name.**

# **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Remember with Prayer**

- Ellie Krigbaum who is quarantined with covid-19 again and suffering greater symptoms than the first time, and her son Wyatt; that God gives a speedy recovery and good health.
- *Printed early*; please share your prayer requests

## **Attendance**

12/02 Midweek Advent: 25  
12/03 Starting Point Class: 2  
12/06 Sunday Worship: 62  
12/06 Sunday Bible Class: 22  
12/06 Confirmation Class: 2

## **God's Creation Calendars**

Contact Jeni Strickland. All funds raised will go to the summer "Making Music" program.

## **Christmas Caroling**

Join our group as we social distance outdoors to share Christmas carols in our community. We'll begin by meeting at church 3pm on Dec 15 & 17.

**Received in November** \$14,470.52

## **Serving This Week**

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

## **Acknowledgments**

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# **CALENDAR**

*rockofages-payson.com/calendar*

## **Sunday, December 13** *Advent 3*

9:00am Service with Lord's Supper  
10:05am Bible Study  
11:15am Service with Lord's Supper  
12:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

## **Tuesday, December 15**

3:00pm Christmas Caroling (round 1)

## **Wednesday, December 16**

12:30pm Mary & Martha meeting  
6:00pm Midweek Advent Service

## **Thursday, December 17**

10:00am Starting Point Class  
3:00pm Christmas Caroling (round 2)

## **Sunday, December 20** *Advent 4*

9:00am Service  
10:05am Bible Study  
11:15am Service  
12:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

## **Monday, December 21**

6:00pm Council Meeting

## **Thursday, December 24**

6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## **Friday, December 25** *Christmas Day*

9:00am Christmas Day Worship

## **Sunday, December 27** *Christmas 1*

9:00am Service with Lord's Supper  
10:05am Bible Study  
11:15am Service with Lord's Supper  
12:30pm Youth Confirmation Class



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