



Sunday Series in Advent

4) WITH HIS GOSPEL HE STRENGTHENS

9:00 & 11:15am December 20, 2020



ROCK OF AGES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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





Song Service

A service of praise to God for fulfilling his promises with the incarnation of Jesus his Son.

*An adapted audio version of this service
is posted as a Children's Christmas Service
for use for worship at home.
Please share it with a friend this Christmas season.*

RockOfAges-Payson.com/at-home

Greeting

Hymn

Angels From The Realms of Glory
Christian Worship 80:1-3

♪ Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing --
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Magi, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen the Savior's star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Invocation

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

Amen.

Dialogue

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Though I sit in darkness,

The Lord will be my light.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham,

As you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty and merciful God, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them, Lord, and ask for your mercy.

The almighty God has been merciful to us. He has fulfilled his promise of mercy by sending his Son to live and die in our place. For Jesus' sake, God forgives us our sins and he calls us from darkness to his great light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Response of Praise

Angels From The Realms of Glory
Christian Worship 80:4

♪ **Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:8-16

Peace will come from the King who is the Son of God and David's Son.

You are also to say the following to my servant David. This is what the Lord of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. ¹⁰I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning ¹¹and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The Lord also declares to you that the Lord himself will make a house for you.

¹²When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom.

¹³He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. ¹⁶Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 89
Selected verses

**♪ At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

¹I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever.
With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.

²Yes, I have said, "Your mercy is built to last forever.
In the heavens you establish your faithfulness."

**♪ At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

³The LORD said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one.
I have sworn to David my servant.

⁴I will establish your seed forever,
and I will build your throne through all generations."

**♪ At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

¹⁵How blessed are the people who know the joyful cry.
LORD, they walk in the light from your face.

¹⁶In your name they celebrate all day long.
In your righteousness they are lifted up.

¹⁷For you are the beauty of their strength,
and by your favor you exalt our Horn.

¹⁸Indeed, our Shield belongs to the LORD,
our King to the Holy One of Israel.

**♪ At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

¹⁹Once you spoke in a vision to your favored ones.
You said: I have granted help to a warrior.

I have raised up a young man from among the people.

²⁰I found David my servant.

With my holy oil I have anointed him.

²¹He is the one whom my hand will sustain.

Surely my arm will strengthen him.

²²No enemy will subject him to tribute.

No violent man will oppress him.

²³I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and mercy will be with him,
and through my name his horn will be exalted.

²⁵I will set his hand over the sea,

his right hand over the rivers.

²⁶He will call out to me, "You are my Father,
my God and the Rock that saves me."

²⁷I will also make him the Firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.

²⁸I will keep my mercy for him forever,
and my covenant with him will stand firm.

²⁹I will establish his seed forever.

His throne will endure like the days of the heavens.

⁵²Blessed be the LORD forever!

Amen and Amen.

**♪ At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

Second Lesson

Romans 16:25-27

The gospel which is found in Scripture creates and strengthens faith.

Now to him who is able to strengthen you—according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, ²⁶but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith—

²⁷to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Verse of the Day

(Matthew 1:23)

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

God kept his promise regarding the eternal reign of the Son of David.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be.

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."



³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible for God."

³⁸Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

-after the gospel

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising
Christian Worship 42

♪ Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

2. See how God, for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woes to heav'nly joy.

3. Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.

4. Jacob's Star in all it's splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the powers of hell.

5. Gracious child, we pray you, hear us,
From your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

Sermon

Romans 16:25-27

God Prepares You For His Coming

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

Confession of Faith

We Praise You, O God

Te Deum Laudamus with "Away in a Manger"

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;

all creation worships you, Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:

Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

♪ **Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

♪ **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

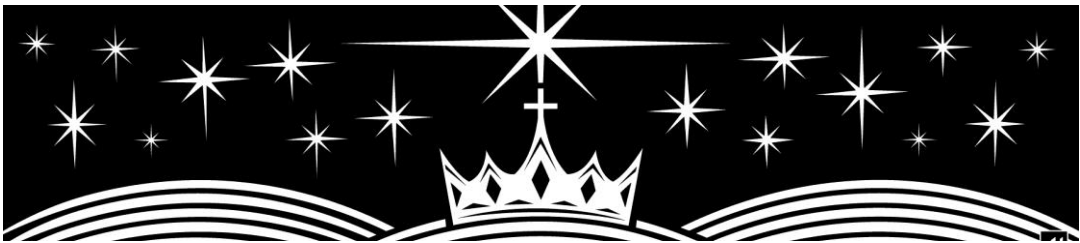
You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting. Amen.

♪ **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with you there.**



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 123

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Prayer for Peace

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty — the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn

Savior of the Nations Come

Christian Worship 2

♪ **Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

**3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned,
Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!**

**4. From the Father's throne he came
And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell --
High the song of triumph swell!**

**5. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.**



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- *Printed early*; please share your prayer requests

Attendance

12/09 Midweek Advent: 30
12/13 Sunday Worship: 62
12/13 Sunday Bible Class: 24
12/13 Confirmation Class: 2

Christmas Caroling

Thanks to all who joined our caroling this past week. Over two days we reached eight locations with the good news in song of Jesus' birth. We stopped by homes and apartments and sang in courtyards and driveways to many who expressed cheer at the music and message.

Received in December \$7,239.32 (*to date*)

Serving This Week

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

Acknowledgments

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CALENDAR

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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

Find more services and Bible study videos at

<http://rockofages-payson.com/at-home/>



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