

**GOD'S GRACE**

# **REVERSES**

**OUR PLACE**



**Sunday Series in Lent**



**FROM THE HOUSE OF SLAVES  
TO SERVING THE LORD**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

*9:00 & 11:15am March 7, 2021*



# 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.

**Our Message** centers around the forgiveness, freedom, and fellowship we have in Jesus.

**Large Print** service folders and **hearing assistance** devices are available.

**Social Distancing** is encouraged out of respect for all worshipping today. Volunteers are sanitizing touch points between services.

**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.

**We Support** the world-wide 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)



# WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.



# 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

Just As I Am, without One Plea

*Christian Worship 397*

♪ **Just as I am, without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2. Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3. Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**6. Just as I am; thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down.  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

## 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

Holy Place

♪ In the holy place where we can enter in By the blood of Jesus Christ  
He has given us atonement for our sins And the love gift sacrifice  
Now let's sing To the one who's called "I Am"  
As we praise his holy Lamb As we lift our hands in  
This holy place This holy place.

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; 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

Exodus 20:1-17

*The Lord rescued his people from slavery so they could be his own.*

Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, where you were slaves.

<sup>3</sup>You shall have no other gods beside me. <sup>4</sup>You shall not make any carved image for yourself or a likeness of anything in heaven above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. <sup>5</sup>Do not bow down to them or be subservient to them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. I follow up on the guilt of the fathers with their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, if they also hate me. <sup>6</sup>But I show mercy to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not permit anyone who misuses his name to escape unpunished.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, <sup>11</sup>for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother so that you may spend many days on the land that the LORD your God is giving to you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not commit murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 19

*Christian Worship page 70*

*Refrain*

Lord, you have the words of  
ev - er - last - ing life.

*Psalm tone* \*

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

***Refrain***

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.

They are more precious than gold;  
they are sweeter than honey.

By them is your servant taught;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

***Refrain***

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

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 8:1-10

*We have been set free from sin to serve the Lord in righteousness.*

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

<sup>5</sup>To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. <sup>6</sup>Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

## Verse of the Day

John 3:14-15

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

## Gospel

John 2:13-22

*Jesus is zealous for God's house and his people.*

The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers sitting at tables. <sup>15</sup>He made a whip of cords and drove everyone out of the temple courts, along with the sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>To those selling doves he said, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a place of business!"

<sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>So the Jews responded, "What sign are you going to show us to prove you

can do these things?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again."

<sup>20</sup>The Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! And you are going to raise it in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body.

<sup>22</sup>When Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.

*After the gospel reading:*

The words and works of our King!

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

## Hymn of the Day

Love Divine, All Love Excelling  
*Christian Worship 365*

♪ **Love divine, all love excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
Fix in us your humble dwelling, All your faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, you are all compassion, Boundless mercy from above.  
Visit us with benediction; Comfort us with heav'nly love.**

**2. Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.  
We would ever seek your blessing, Serve you as your hosts above,  
Pray and praise you without ceasing, Glory in your perfect love.**

**3. Sanctify your new creation; Pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us trust your great salvation, Won for us on Calvary,  
Till we lay our crowns before you, Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till in glory we adore you, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

## Sermon

Exodus 20:1-17

### God's Grace Reverses Our Place





Feb. 21	From Losing a Child to Countless In the Family	(Ge 22:1-18)
Feb. 28	From Possessing Nothing to Possessing Everything	(Ge 28:10-17)
Mar. 7	<b>From the House of Slaves to Serving the Lord</b>	(Ex 20:1-17)
Mar. 14	From Grumbling & the Grave to Grateful & Saved	(Nu 21:4-9)
Mar. 21	From Scattered & Scorched to Gathered & Adored	(Is 43:1-7)
Mar. 28	From Suffering in Prison to Shining in Paradise	(Zec 9:9-17)

## Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

*2<sup>nd</sup> Article with Luther's Explanation*

**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.**

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

## 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 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

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.**

## Blessing

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

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

*Christian Worship 373:1,4-5*

♪ O Jesus, King most wonderful,  
O Majesty renowned,  
O Conqueror invincible,  
In whom all joys are found,

**4. May ev'ry heart confess your name, Forever you adore,  
Enkindled with the Spirit's flame To love you more and more.**

**5. Oh, may our tongues forever bless And honor you alone,  
And may we in our lives express The image of your own!**

# **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Remember with Prayer**

- Thanks to God for giving Judy Fox a successful surgery for repair from a previous surgery; that he continues to strengthen her in grace.
- Irma Mahler; that God gives health and strength as she recovers from a medical procedure last week.
- Marlene Neilsen's son who is battling cancer; that God mercifully relieves his pain and gives him the sure hope of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ.

## **Attendance**

02/24 Midweek Lent: 23

02/25 Midweek Bible Class: 7

02/28 Sunday Worship: 62

02/28 Sunday Bible Class: 16

02/28 Children's Bible Class: 8

03/02 Confirmation Class: 2

**Received in February** \$9,897.82 (as of Feb 22)

## **Serving This Week**

Flowers, Communion Setup: Pat Solomon

Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ;

Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel

Ushers: Creig Solomon, Jerry Zuvich

## **Making Music**

Members of Rock of Ages: volunteers are needed to help with running our summer music program. Please contact pastor if you would like to help serve this June & July.

## **Acknowledgments**

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# **CALENDAR**

*rockofages-payson.com/calendar*

## **Sunday, March 7 Lent 3**

9:00am Service

10:05am Bible Study

11:15am Service

12:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

## **Wednesday, March 10**

6:00pm Midweek Lent Service

## **Thursday, March 11**

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

10:00am Starting Point Class

## **Saturday, March 13**

11:00am Memorial Service (Jim Strong)

## **Sunday, March 14 Lent 4**

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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