

GOD'S GRACE

REVERSES

OUR PLACE



Sunday Series in Lent



**FROM GRUMBLING & THE
GRAVE TO GRATEFUL & SAVED**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 & 11:15am March 14, 2021



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.

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



WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.



Divine Service II

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.

Hymn

Amazing Grace -How Sweet the Sound

Christian Worship 379

♪ **Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound--
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

**2. The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

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.

Hymn of Praise

Jesus Name Above All Names

♪ **Jesus, name above all names Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us Blessed Redeemer, Living Word**

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

All who look to God's promised rescue will live.

They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 38

Spoken Responsively

LORD, do not rebuke me in anger.

Do not discipline me in wrath.

Indeed, your arrows have stuck in me.

Your hand has come down on me.

because my guilt has gone over my head.
Like a heavy burden, it is too heavy for me.

Lord, all my needs lie before you.
My sighs are not hidden from you.

My heart beats quickly. My strength leaves me.
Even the light of my eyes is gone from me.

Yet I wait for you, LORD.
You will answer, O Lord my God.

Look! I am about to fall, and I am always in pain,
so I declare my guilt, and I am troubled by my sin.

Do not forsake me, O LORD. My God, do not be far from me.
Hurry to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 2:4-10

God made us alive with Christ. Through faith in him we are saved.

But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

Children's Message

*All children 5th grade and under are invited to come to the front area.
Helpers and parents are welcome to join them.*

Verse of the Day

(John 3:16)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The Gospel according to John chapter 3.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

Gospel

John 3:14-21

Whoever believes in Jesus, the Son of Man and Son of God, has eternal life.

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World So That He Gave

Christian Worship 391

♪ **1 God loved the world so that he gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe
Should everlasting life receive.**

**2. Christ is the solid rock of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**3. God would not have the sinner die--
His Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word does teach
How we the blessed goal may reach.**

**4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood;
Baptized, you are a child of God.**

**5. When you are sick, when death draws near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death--
This is the anchor of my faith!**

**6. Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

Sermon

Numbers 21:4-9

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	From the House of Slaves to Serving the Lord	(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

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.

**The original word here in Greek from the church council in Nicea in 325 is often translated "Catholic." It refers to the universal church, not just the Roman Catholic church. We join with all believers everywhere of all time in confessing these truths.*

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 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

Lent

Christian Worship page 125

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point to death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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 came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. 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*

(Tune: CW 372; AURELIA)

♪ **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

Welcome guests! We kindly ask that before joining in the Lord's Supper you express full agreement with us in the faith through membership here or in a sister congregation of the WELS, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We'd love to share more with you about our ministry. Talk to our pastor today. Thank you for respecting our beliefs!

After the distribution please stand to sing

Hymn *Nunc Dimittis*

Sung to the 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!**

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 look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

Christian Worship 321

♪ Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

2. Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
With thee began, with thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon thy name.

3. Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep thy people free,
For dark and light are both alike to thee.

4. Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

Acknowledgments

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Thanks to God for the gift of salvation; that we might live new lives and spread the good news of forgiveness in Jesus; that many would come to hear the Word this year's holy week and Easter.
- Share your prayer requests

Attendance

03/03 Midweek Lent: 35
03/04 Midweek Bible Class: 8
03/04 Starting Point Class: 6
03/07 Sunday Worship: 54
03/07 Sunday Bible Class: 19
03/07 Children's Bible Class: 8
03/10 Confirmation Class: 2

Received in February \$13,002.82 *(to date)*
Received in March \$3,105.00 *(as of March 8)*

Serving This Week

Flowers, Communion Setup: Grace Popelier
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.

Invitation

Janell Sterner is hosting a Ladies Night on March 19th at 5:30pm. Theme is pizza and games!
RSVP: Janell 480-688-6427

Acknowledgments

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CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, March 14 Lent 4

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

Monday, March 15

6:00pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 17

12:30pm Mary & Martha Meeting
4:30pm Youth Confirmation Class
6:00pm Midweek Lent Service

Thursday, March 18

9:00am Midweek Bible Class
10:00am Starting Point Class

Sunday, March 21 Lent 5

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

Tuesday, March 23

3:45pm Youth Discipleship Group

Wednesday, March 24

4:30pm Youth Confirmation Class
6:00pm Midweek Lent Service

Thursday, March 25

9:00am Pastors Circuit meeting at Cornville

Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday

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

Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday

6:00pm Service with Lord's Supper

Friday, April 2 Good Friday

6:00pm Good Friday Service



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