



## **2) HE HUMBLES HIS PEOPLE**

*9:30am   December 5, 2021*



# ROCK OF AGES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Ancient Faith for Today's World*

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**Welcome!** May you be filled with peace and joy from Jesus who lived, died, and rose again to be your Savior. He is forever our living Rock of Ages.

**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.

**Membership:** We are part of a church family and together we reach out with the amazing gospel message. We'd love to have you join with us in our mission!

**Children's** activity bags, quiet toys, and a changing table are available from the nursery in entry area.

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

**Restrooms** are located at the far ends of the 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

A There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

*Christian Worship 308*

## Invocation

*(Matthew 18:20, 28:19)*

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

**Amen.**

## Confession & Absolution

*(John 20:23; 1 John 1:9)*

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.**

# Hymn

Arise, O Christian People  
*Christian Worship 310:1-2*

♪ 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 were 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.

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us the strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# THE WORD

## First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-7b

*Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.*

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the Lord of Armies.

<sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! <sup>3</sup>He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the Lord and bring him an offering in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the Lord as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

<sup>5</sup>I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the Lord of Armies.

<sup>6</sup>Certainly I, the Lord, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. <sup>7</sup>Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of Armies.

## Psalm of the Day

### Psalm 66

*Christian Worship*

**Refrain**

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

Shout praise to God, all the earth! <sup>2</sup>Make music to the glory of his name! Make his praise glorious! <sup>3</sup>Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!" Because of your great power your enemies must cower before you. <sup>4</sup>All the earth bows down to you. They make music to you. They make music to your name.

♪ **Refrain**

<sup>5</sup>Come and see the works of God. How awesome his deeds for all people! <sup>6</sup>He turned the sea into dry land. They crossed through the river on foot. Let us rejoice in him there. <sup>7</sup>He rules by his power forever. His eyes watch the nations. Do not let the rebellious rise up against him. ♪ **Refrain**

<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, you peoples. Let the sound of his praise be heard. <sup>9</sup>He is the one who has preserved our lives. He did not let our feet slip. <sup>10</sup>Indeed, you tested us, God. You refined us as silver is refined. <sup>11</sup>You led us into a trap. You laid a burden on our backs. <sup>12</sup>You let men ride over our heads. We went through fire and through water, but you brought us out to a well-watered place. ♪ **Refrain**

<sup>16</sup>Come, listen, all you who fear God, and let me tell what he has done to save my life. <sup>17</sup>To him I cried out with my mouth. High praise was on my tongue. <sup>18</sup>If I had contemplated evil in my heart, the Lord would not have listened, <sup>19</sup>but God has surely listened. He has paid attention to the sound of my prayer. <sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not turned aside my prayer or turned aside his mercy from me! ♪ **Refrain**

## Second Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

*Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.*

I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. <sup>8</sup>Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. <sup>10</sup>This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

## Verse of the Day

(Luke 3:4,6)

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation.

# Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

*In grace, God sent his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Lord.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth. <sup>6</sup>And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

## Hymn of the Day

Comfort, Comfort All My People

*Christian Worship 312*

## Sermon

Malachi 3:1-7b

### When the Lord Comes Near



Nov. 28 He Humbles Himself

Dec. 5 He Humbles His People

Dec. 12 He Humbles His Enemies

Dec. 19 He Lifts Up The Humbled

## 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.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Christian Worship 316 (sung)*

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
come, then, and listen, for he brings good news about the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin and furnished for a Guest within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and lift us up to fall no more;  
O make your face on us to shine, and fill the world with love divine.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

**All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.**

## **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.*



# 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

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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

**Arise, O Christian People**  
*Christian Worship 310:3-4*

### Acknowledgments

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Remember with Prayer**

- Michael (brother of Pat Solomon) diagnosed with covid & Karen (friend of the Dobberpuhls) hospitalized with covid; that God would mercifully heal them.
- Joanie, daughter-in-law of Dorothy Stickles who has a critical loss of oxygen capacity; that he would provide his peace and strength for her and her family.
- Dorothy Stickles, who is having surgery for a mass near her stomach; that God gives a successful surgery.
- All who grieve the loss of Elaine, cousin to Judi Moore; that the love of Christ sustains all who grieve this sudden unexpected loss.
- Jean Winslow, Lyn Larson who have both recovered recently from illness; thanks to God for their well-being and answering prayer.
- Gary and Caroll Wendt who have both recovered from covid; that God bless them with full strength and Gary as he starts a treatment cycle for cancer.
- All who do not know our humble Savior; that this Advent and Christmas season would draw them to trust in Christ as their Savior.
- The new WELS mission church "Christ the Rock" at Farmington, NM as they reach out to the Navajo Nation and surrounding people.
- That God would humble his people so that they might be eager and ready for his coming.
- Bill Popelier's brother who has sudden health struggles; that he gives stability and healing.
- Klaus and Van Wandel; that God helps and strengthens them as they've battled various health setbacks this past year.
- That God would increase our faith, hope, and love as this world grows increasingly hostile to the message of the cradle, cross, and crown of Christ.
- *Share your requests and thanksgiving.*

## **Received in November \$10,113.37**

*Monthly budgeted for 2021 \$12,324/month*

## **Attendance**

11/25 Thanksgiving Service: 45

11/28 Sunday Service: 56

11/28 Children's Bible Study: 5

11/28 Youth & Adult Bible Study: 22

# **CALENDAR**

[rockofages-payson.com/calendar](http://rockofages-payson.com/calendar)

## **Sunday, November 28 Advent 1**

9:30am Service with Lord's Supper

10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

## **Wednesday, December 1**

9:00am Elders Meeting

6:00pm Midweek Advent Service

## **Thursday, December 2**

9:00am Circuit Meeting @Christ Prescott

5:00pm Youth Catechism

## **Sunday, December 5 Advent 2**

9:30am Service

10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

## **Wednesday, December 8**

6:00pm Midweek Advent Service

## **Thursday, December 9**

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

10:00am Choir

5:00pm Youth Catechism

## **Save the Dates -Christmas Caroling**

Dec.15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm -meet at church.

Dec.17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm & meeting for cookies and apple cider afterwards at the Barthel house.

Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm with just one or two stops.

**New Topic** Today for Youth and Adult Bible Study  
"Book of Amos" part 1 of 5.

## **Save the Date -Ladies Christmas Lunch**

Ladies of the congregation Mary Martha group will have a Ladies Potluck Lunch Dec 15<sup>th</sup> @12:30pm.

*(note the December church calendar has the wrong time printed)* We will visit and sing Christmas carols.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for casserole, salad, or desert. No games, no gifts.

## **Serving This Week**

Altar Guild: Della Kary, Lydia Barthel

Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ

Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel

Ushers: Creig Solomon, Jerry Zuvich





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