



W H E N T H E
L O R D
C O M E S N E A R

3) HE HUMBLER HIS ENEMIES

9:30am December 12, 2021



ROCK OF AGES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ancient Faith for Today's World

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





The Common Service

The Common Service is based on the historic liturgy of the Christian Church.

Greeting

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
Christian Worship 306

The Invocation

(Matthew 18:20, 28:19)

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

Amen.

Confession of Sins

(1 John 1:9)

You who are loved by the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(John 20:23)

God our heavenly Father has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response of Praise

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Christian Worship 315

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.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-17

The prophet Zephaniah urges us to rejoice. Not only has the Lord taken away our punishment, but he will defeat all the enemies of God's people.

Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 14

Christian Worship Supplement

Refrain



Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus,



come. Re - store your peo-ple and bless them.

Psalm Tone



The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men

to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;

there is no one who does good, not even one.

♪ Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Restore your people and bless them.

Will evildoers never learn—

those who devour my people and do not call on the Lord?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,

but the Lord is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Israel rejoice and
be glad!

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.

♪ Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Restore your people and bless them.

Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

When the world opposes Christ and his Church, Christians do not respond with anxiety or anger, but gentleness.

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Children's Message

Verse of the Day

(Matthew 11:10)

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

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

Who is Christ's enemy? Anyone who refuses the gifts of his grace, received humbly in repentant faith.

So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰The crowds began to ask him, "What should we do then?"

¹¹He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same."

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³To them he said, "Collect no more than what you were authorized to."

¹⁴Soldiers were also asking him, "And what should we do?"

He told them, "Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

Hymn of the Day

Rejoice, the Lord Is King
Christian Worship 524

Sermon

Luke 3:7-18

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

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.

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 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.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. 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 (Isaiah 6:3, Psalm 118:25-26)



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

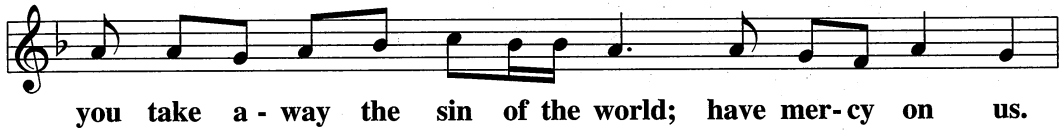
Amen.

Lamb of God,

Agnus Dei (John 1:29)

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution

Welcome guests! We kindly ask that you speak with our pastor prior to partaking in the Lord's Supper with us.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

And his mercy endures forever.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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

May the Peace of God

Christian Worship 929

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- *Share your requests and thanksgiving.*

Received in November \$10,113.37

Received in December \$5,806.32 *(to date)*

Monthly budgeted for 2021 \$12,324/month

Attendance

12/01 Midweek Advent: 27

12/05 Sunday Service: 61

12/05 Children's Bible Study: 5

12/05 Youth & Adult Bible Study: 27

12/08 Midweek Advent:

12/09 Midweek Bible Study:

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

Save the Date -Ladies Christmas Lunch

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



RockOfAges-Payson.com

204 W. Airport Rd. Payson, AZ 85541 • Office: 928-474-2098 • pastorbarthel@gmail.com
Pastor Tom Barthel • Mobile: 928-612-8463

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, December 12

9:30am Service with Lord's Supper

10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

Wednesday, December 15

12:30pm Mary & Martha Christmas Lunch

2:00pm Christmas Caroling (meet at church)

6:00pm Midweek Advent Service

Thursday, December 16

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

10:00am Choir

5:00pm Youth Catechism

Friday, December 17

1:00pm Christmas Caroling (meet at church)

4:00pm (Caroling Group Social)

Sunday, December 19

9:30am Service

10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

Monday, December 20

6:00pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 21

12:15pm Christmas Caroling (meet at church)

Thursday, December 23

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

10:00am Choir

5:00pm Youth Catechism

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve

6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 26 Christmas 1

9:30am Service with Lord's Supper

10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

Acknowledgments

Service: Christian Worship: Common Service Text: revised from 1941 TLH © 1993, Northwestern Publishing House

Cover photo: Photo © 2021 WELS

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®, EHV®, © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved.

The following service items are printed under CCLI #2524351 or Onelicense.net #A 716430 all rights reserved, used by permission. All other printed music is public domain.