



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

4) HE LIFTS UP THE HUMBLD

9:30am December 19, 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



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.

Hymn

Peace Came to Earth

Christian Worship 330

Hymn numbers are for the blue hymnals

Gathering Rite

Christian Worship 327 with responsive dialogue

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may love you and praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**♪ O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Our help is in the name of the Lord

The maker of heaven and earth.

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

Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

**In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead
of your ways. I have not loved others as you command.**

For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.

I am sorry for my sins.

I repent of them. I beg for your mercy.

♪ **O come, O Root of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.
**Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

♪ **O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.
Amen.

♪ **O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.
Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

Individuals may extend the peace of Christ by turning to one another and saying, "Peace be with you."

Let us pray: God, our Father, by the sacrifice of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself. We thank you for the precious gift of forgiveness. Refresh us with the joy of our salvation, that we may walk in the way of peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Renew our minds and wills, that daily we may speak your word of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

♪ **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Rejoice and sing! Christ Jesus has set you free.

Thanks be to God.

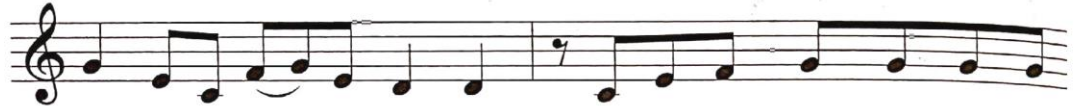
Response of Praise

The Song of Mary

Magnificat



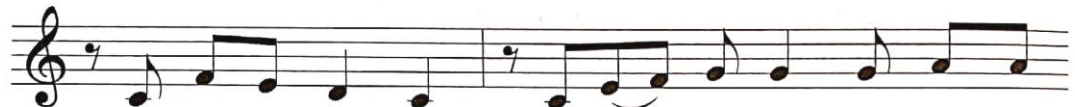
My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-



joic-es in God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with fa - vor



on his low - ly ser-vant. From this day all gen - er - a-tions



will call me bless - ed. The Al - mighty has done great

things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on

those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.

He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the

proud in their con-ceil. He has cast down the might-y

from their thrones and has lift-ed up the low-ly.

He has filled the hun-gry with good things, and the rich

he has sent a-way emp-ty. He has come to the

help of his ser-vant Is-ra-el, for he has re-mem-bered his

prom-ise of mer-cy, the prom-ise made to our fa-thers,



to A-bra-ham, and to his chil-dren for-ev-er. A-men.

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.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

- The humble, tiny town of Bethlehem would be exalted. For there a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. ³Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. ⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵This one will be their peace.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85

Congregation sings the boldface refrains.

♪ I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

You showed favor to your land, O LORD. You restored Jacob. ²You removed the guilt of your people. You covered all their sin. ³You put away all your wrath. You turned from your burning anger. ⁴Restore us, O God who saves us. Put an end to

your indignation with us. ⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you extend your anger through all generations? ⁶Will you not turn and revive us, so that your people may rejoice in you?

♪ I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

⁷Show us your mercy, O LORD, and give us your salvation. ⁸I will hear what the true God, the LORD, will say. He indeed speaks peace to his people, to his favored ones, but do not let them turn to foolish ways. ⁹Surely his salvation is near for those who fear him, so that glory may dwell in our land.

♪ I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

¹⁰Mercy and truth meet together. Righteousness and peace kiss each other. ¹¹Truth springs up from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. ¹²The LORD will indeed give good things, and our land will yield its harvest. ¹³Righteousness walks in front of him. It prepares the way for his footsteps.

♪ I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

Second Lesson

Hebrews 10:5-10

We cannot do enough good works or offer enough sacrifices to raise ourselves up to God. So the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy.

Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me. ⁶You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings. ⁷Then I said, "Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me." ⁸First he said: Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them.

⁹Then he said: Here I am. I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day

(Matthew 1:23)

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

In Spirit wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior

In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶Then Mary said, My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, ⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

Hymn of the Day

The Angel Gabirel from Heaven Came

Christian Worship 328

Sermon

Luke 1:39-55

When the Lord Comes Near



Nov. 28	He Humbles Himself
Dec. 5	He Humbles His People
Dec. 12	He Humbles His Enemies
<u>Dec. 19</u>	<u>He Lifts Up The Humbled</u>

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.

New Member Welcome *-Jeff & Verda Reeves, Adult Confirmation*

Prayer of the Church

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.

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

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Christian Worship 601

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Veronica, granddaughter of Lois Metikos; that God blesses her with recovery from infection.
- *Share your requests and thanksgiving.*

Received in November \$10,113.37

Received in December \$8,080.32 *(to date)*

Monthly budgeted for 2021 \$12,324/month

Attendance

12/09 Midweek Bible Study: 11
12/09 Youth Catechism: 3
12/09 Midweek Advent: 33
12/12 Sunday Service: 53
12/12 Children's Bible Study: 5
12/12 Youth & Adult Bible Study: 37
12/15 Midweek Advent: 34
12/16 Midweek Bible Study: 13

Serving This Week

Altar Guild: Masha Wente, Joan Williams
Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ
Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel
Ushers: Creig Solomon, Jerry Zuvich

Perfume Allergies

Thank you for your ongoing consideration for those who join us for worship and have allergies to perfume and cologne.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Out of consideration for those with sensitivities to smoke we will be using mostly electronic candles on Christmas Eve. Thank you!

Acknowledgments

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CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, December 19

9:30am Service
10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

Monday, December 20

6:00pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 21

11:50am 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 Candlelight Service
7:00pm Fellowship

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:30am Song Service

Sunday, December 26 Christmas 1

9:30am Service with Lord's Supper
10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

Christmas Eve The Ascoli Family invites everyone to join them in the Fellowship Hall for hot chocolate, coffee and refreshments after the Christmas Eve Service.



RockOfAges-Payson.com

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