

# LARGE PRINT



**Christmas Day 9:30am**

December 25, 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)





# Christmas Song Service

*A service of praise to God for fulfilling his promises with the incarnation of Jesus his Son.*

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## Hymn

## Ring the Bells

*Sung by 4 For Christ*

## Gathering Rite

*Selected Scripture*

*readings with hymn 354*

*(Isaiah 9) Prophecy of the Son of God Incarnate*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

**on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

**And he will be called Wonderful**

**Counselor, Mighty God,**

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and

over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

**The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.**

**♪ Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.**

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*(Isaiah 49) The Son of God comes in the flesh to save us all*

Listen to me, you coastlands. Pay attention, you faraway peoples! The LORD called me from the womb. When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.

**The LORD said: I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.**

This is what the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, its Holy One, says to the one deeply despised, to the one who is detested by the nation, to the servant of rulers.

**Kings will see and stand up. Officials will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, because of the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.**

Shout for joy, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth.

**Let mountains burst forth with shouts of joy,**

because the LORD is comforting his people, and he is showing mercy to his afflicted ones.

**So all flesh will know that I am the LORD, your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**

**♪ God from true God, and**

**Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.**

**Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

*(Isaiah 59-60) The Son brings the light of  
forgiveness for sinners*

We hope for light, but look, there is only  
darkness.

**We hope for bright light, but we walk around  
in the darkest gloom.**

As for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.

**Those deeds are rebellion and treachery  
against the LORD.**

The LORD looked and saw that there was no one.  
He was appalled that there was no one who  
could intervene.

**So his own arm worked salvation for him.**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

**Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples,**

but the LORD will dawn upon you,

**and his glory will be seen over you.**

♪ **Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.**

**Glory to God, All glory in the highest.**

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let  
us adore him,**

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*(Luke 2)*

Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace, good will toward mankind.**



♪ **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy  
morning;**

**Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.**

**Oh, come, let us adore him,**

**Oh, come, let us adore him,**

**Oh, come, let us adore him,**

**Christ the Lord.**

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. (Galatians 4)

**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.** (John

3)

He was revealed in flesh,  
was justified in spirit,  
was seen by messengers

**He was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up in glory.** (1 Timothy 3)

♪ **Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# **THE WORD**

**First Reading** Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

*To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human*

*flesh. To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.*

Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory." The LORD said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." <sup>20</sup>He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup>The LORD also said, "Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. <sup>22</sup>It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen."

<sup>5</sup>The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>The LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, <sup>7</sup>maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for

the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation."

## Psalm of the Day Psalm 98

*Congregation sings the refrain and reads  
boldface lines*

### *Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song, for  
he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
**for he has done marvelous things.**

His right hand and his holy arm have worked  
salvation for him.

**The LORD has made his salvation known.**

He has revealed his righteousness to the eyes of  
the nations.

**He has remembered his mercy and his  
faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.**

Break out in joyful song! Make music!

**Make music to the LORD with the lyre and the sound of music.**

♪ **Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.**

With trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn  
**shout for joy before the King, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and everything that fills it, the world, and all who live in it.

**Let the rivers clap their hands. Let the mountains sing for joy together before the LORD,**

for he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with fairness.**

**♪ Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.**

## **Second Reading** Romans 8:31-32

*If the Father was willing to give us his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.*

What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

## **Hymn**

### **Love Has Come**

*Christian Worship 364*

*Hymn numbers today are for the blue hymnal*

**Love has come, a light in the darkness!  
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.  
Hear how their song of joy arises:**

**Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

**Love is born! Come share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come, He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!**

*Words by Ken Bible*

*Music: French Carol Melody, attr. to Saboly, 17th c., arr.  
by Ken Bible © 1996 by LNWhymns.com.*

**Verse of the Day** Galatians 4:4,5

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,

born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law.

## **Hymn**

### **Away in A Manger**

*Christian Worship 341*

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet  
head.**

**The stars in the bright sky looked down  
where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the  
sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender**



**care,**

**and take us to heaven to live with you there.**

## **Gospel**

**John 1:1-18**

*In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name,

he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.' " <sup>16</sup>For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

## **Hymn of the Day**

### **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

*Christian Worship 358 :1-3*

**1 Of the Father's love begotten**

**ere the worlds began to be,**

**he is Alpha and Omega,**

**he the source, the ending he,**

**of the things that are, that have been,**

**and that future years shall see  
evermore and evermore.**

**2 Oh, that birth forever blessed  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face  
evermore and evermore.**

**3 This is he whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.**

**Sermon**

**John 1:1-18**

*What Child Is This? God In the Flesh*

**Hymn**

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

*Christian Worship 358:4-5*

**4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him,  
angel hosts his praises sing,  
pow'rs, dominions bow before him  
and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.**

**5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unending praises be,  
honor, glory, and dominion  
and eternal victory  
evermore and evermore.**

## **Confession of Faith**

**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 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.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies

and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others

of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

**Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** *(sung to same tune as "Away in a Manger")*

♪ **Our Father in heaven all praise to your name!**

**Your kingdom among us, your will done the**

**same**

**By mortals and angels. Come, Lord reign  
alone;**

**Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high  
throne.**

**The Bread that we yearn for provide us each  
day;**

**As we forgive others, our sins take away;**

**In times of temptation, oh help us; be near.**

**From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom, o'er all things you  
reign.**

**And yours is the power; all things you  
maintain.**

**To you be the glory, resounding again**

**From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

## **Prayer**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy  
Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear



them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty — the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn** Angels We Have Heard on High

*Christian Worship 346*

**1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,**

**and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]**

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]**

**Presiding Minister:** Tom Barthel, pastor  
**Music:** Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ;

### **Acknowledgments**

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