

Epiphany Sermon Series



GOD'S GRACIOUS PLAN
REVEALED

1) HE ANOINTS THE UNEXPECTED

9:30am January 9, 2022



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 Service

Greeting

All hymn numbers today are for the blue hymnals

Hymn

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here
Christian Worship 374:1-3,5

In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

(1 John 1:9, John 20:23)

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Response of Praise

Father Welcomes
Christian Worship 684

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

To the eyes of the average Israelite, the young boy David was not the best choice to be king. Yet he was God's choice, a man after God's heart. The Lord made his choice known through an anointing

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons."

²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you."

⁴So Samuel did what the Lord had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, "Do you come in peace?"

⁵He said, "Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, "Certainly this is the Lord's anointed."

⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the Lord does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either."

⁹Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either."

¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Is that all of the young men?"

Jesse said, "There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes."

¹²He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and

was good-looking. The Lord said, "Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one."

¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord rushed on David with power from that day forward.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 2

Christian Worship [blue hymnal]

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a ceremonial washing. St. Paul tells us it is so much more. It is a second birth that bestows salvation and the Spirit

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus is the light of the world; in him we have the light of life.

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Luke 3:15-17,21-23

In the eyes of the Israelites, John the Baptist looked like he could be the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. Jesus looked ordinary by comparison. Yet, he was God's Anointed One, a choice made clear in his baptism.

The 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."

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."

²³Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

After the reading of the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Arise and Shine in Splendor

Christian Worship 375

1 sung by all

2-3 sung by choir

4 sung by all (A capella)

Sermon

1 Samuel 16:1-13



**GOD'S GRACIOUS PLAN
REVEALED**

A Sermon Series for Epiphany 2022

GOD'S GRACIOUS PLAN REVEALED

Jan 9 He Anoints The Unexpected

Jan. 16 He Gives Unearned Delight

Jan 23 He Endures Rejection

Jan. 30 His Word Reaches Out

Feb 6 He Sends Messengers of Grace

Feb. 13 He Blesses All Who Trust in Him

Feb 20 He Makes Forgiveness Flow

Feb 27 He Shows His Glory

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

Epiphany Season

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort to those who mourn:

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

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. Today you may place your offering on the table by the entryway as you enter or exit.

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 right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly 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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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

Music can be found in blue hymnal, page 167

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in

your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

Music can be found in blue hymnal, page 169

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. Amen.**

Distribution

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

As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. 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

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

Christian Worship 930

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Pat Solomon, who has injured her shoulder; that God provides speedy healing.
- Thanks to the Lord of the church for giving Tom Barthel the blessing of remaining at Rock of Ages to serve as pastor after returning the call to Farifax, MN.
- The congregations at St. John Lutheran and Emanuel Lutheran in Fairfax, MN as they continue to wait for a shepherd.
- *Share your requests and thanksgiving.*

Received in December \$12,301.92

Received in January \$3,480 (to date)

Attendance

12/30 Midweek Bible Study: 8

01/01 New Year's Day: 27

01/02 Sunday Service: 49

01/02 Youth & Adult Bible Study: 26

01/02 Children's Bible Study: 5

Serving This Week

Altar Guild: Masha Wentz, Joan Williams

Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ

Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel

Ushers: Creig Solomon, Jerry Zuvich

God's Creation Calendars

Contact Jeni Strickland to obtain an encouraging 2022 calendar. Proceeds will go to support a special ministry effort.

Update:

WELS Christian Aid and Relief has sent a gift of \$10,000 towards relief efforts for those effected by the December 10 tornados. Want to contribute to a disaster relief effort? Visit <https://wels.net/christian-aid-and-relief/> or donate at wels.net/CARgift

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, January 9, 2022 *The Baptism of Our Lord*

9:30am Service with Lord's Supper

10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

3:45pm Youth Discipleship Group

Thursday, January 13, 2022

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

10:00am Choir

5:00pm Youth Catechism

Sunday, January 16, 2022 *Epiphany 2*

9:30am Service

10:30am Bible Study (all ages)

Devotional resource:

Ask about being added to our mailing list to receive a copy of the monthly magazine "Forward in Christ." Read a recent article here: <https://forwardinchrist.net/the-future-of-abortion/>

Men's Rally

Men, you are invited to join the "Men of His Word" conference on January 22. Find info at menofhisword.org/2022-phoenix.html

Women's Missionary Society Rally

Women, you are invited to join our Spring rally on Saturday April 2 at Arizona Lutheran Academy. Look for registration details soon.



RockOfAges-Payson.com

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