

Christ the Rock Lutheran Church
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Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 20, 2021

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE ROCK!
We are glad you are here in God's house today.

- Out of consideration for others and to comply with state guidelines, please wear a mask and observe social distancing. If you do not have a mask, please take one from the box on the table in the entry.
- Restrooms are located through the double doors and to the left.

SERIES THEME: Ministry Basics

In this series of teachings from the Gospel according to Mark, Jesus opens the Scriptures to help us to take his teaching to heart. We realize what it means to be his disciples and concentrate on our calling to serve Him in loving response.

SERVICE THEME: Don't Underestimate Jesus and His People!

On Independence days people celebrate the growth and power of the nation. Yet there is a more powerful kingdom that has grown up from humble beginnings. It is the kingdom of God, which often makes unnoticeable progress in conquering hearts for Christ. Yet stepping back to look at it you can see its tremendous growth. Those who are part of it will be longing for the final outcome when they are "clothed" with immortal life away from the struggles of the world.

Our Practice for Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is a means by which Christ strengthens our faith as we receive His body and blood together with the bread and wine. Receiving the Sacrament is a public confession of faith. Therefore, Christ the Rock observes the Biblical principle of "Close Communion." We invite those persons who are members of this congregation or another Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) congregation to commune today. Other guests are



asked to speak with our pastor if they desire to join our confessional fellowship. Thank you!

HYMN

“God Is Here! As We His People”

Christian Worship # 532



1 God is here! As we his peo - ple Meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of Church and King - dom, In an age of



praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace. Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
 Here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es - ty of
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
 Help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the
 preach - ing, Here, in si - lence as in speech, Here, in
 Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it
 ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who



com - ing of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 means in dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
 can - not live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

Mark 10

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14

Sing to the tune Christian Worship #38

1 All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.

4 You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
“All glory be to God!” Amen.

THE WORD



SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

We find our refuge in God's tree of life

22 “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. **23** On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. **24** All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. “I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.’”



How great are your works, O LORD,*
 how profound your thoughts!
 The senseless man does not know,*
 fools do not understand,
 that though the wicked spring up like grass*
 and all evildoers flourish,
 they will be forever destroyed.*
 But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.

Refrain

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,*
 they will flourish in the courts of our God.
 They will still bear fruit in old age,*
 they will stay fresh and green,
 proclaiming, “The LORD is upright,*
 he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

We live by faith, not by sight

1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Psalm 132:9

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia.

STAND

GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

In two parables, Jesus describes the growth of his church

M: The Gospel according to **Mark** chapter **Four**.

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

26 He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” 30 Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.” 33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

Christian Worship #533



1 I love your king - dom, Lord, The place
 2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize
 3 I love your Church, O God, Your saints
 4 For them my tears shall fall; For them
 5 Sure as your truth shall last, To Zi -



of your a - bode, The Church our blest Re -
 its heav'n - ly ways, Its sweet com - mun - ion,
 in ev - 'ry land, Dear as the ap - ple
 my prayers as - cend; For them my cares and
 on shall be giv'n The bright - est glo - ries



deem - er saved With his own pre - cious blood.
 sol - emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
 of your eye And grav - en on your hand.
 toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.
 earth can yield And bright - er bliss of heav'n.

The Kingdom Grows

SERMON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

YOU BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY TREE

1. This tree has a solid base
2. This tree attracts people

STAND

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: 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, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. 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*

1 O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.

Tune of Christian Worship Hymn #538

2 Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

STAND

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

M: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Preach You the Word”

verses 1,2 and 5

Christian Worship Supplement #544

1 Preach you the Word and plant it home
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task
To those who like or like it not,
Your ser - vant bids us un - der - take:
The Word that shall en - dure and stand
To preach your Word and nev - er ask
When flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
What pride - ful prof - it it may make.

5 Preach you the Word and plant it home
And never faint; the Harvest-Lord
Who gave the sower seed to sow
Will watch and tend his planted Word.

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