

# NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2017

11:00



## AS WE GATHER

Near the close of Deuteronomy, there is an account of how Moses gave directions to Joshua entrusting to him the leadership of the people of Israel. Moses encouraged his successor with these words: “Be strong and courageous. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” As we conclude this calendar year and look toward the future and a new year, we can be confident that wherever we are going, not only is the Lord going before us, but He is also for us as we go.

**PRE-SERVICE** “You Are God Alone”

Foote

**You are not a god created by human hands. You are not a god dependent on any mortal man.  
You are not a god in need of anything we can give. By Your plan, that’s just the way it is.**

**You are God alone — from before time began You were on Your throne; You are God alone.  
And right now, in the good times and bad, You are on Your throne. You are God alone.**

**You're unchangeable. You're unshakable. You're unstoppable. That's what You are.  
You're unchangeable. You're unshakable. You're unstoppable. That's what You are.**

**You're the only God whose power none can contend. You're the only God whose name and praise will never end.  
You're the only God who's worthy of ev'rything we can give. You are God —that’s just the way it is.**

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**WELCOME**

**✘ PREPARATION ✘**

**OPENING SONG** “In Christ Alone”

Getty/Townend

**In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all— Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid— Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death— this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home— Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

**Here in the pow'r of Christ we stand.**

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*(Please Stand)*



## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*

**Pastor:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People:** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8–9*

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19–23]*

**People:** **Amen.**

**(OR)**

**Seminary Student:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

**People:** **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.

People: **In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Pastor: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

## ✠ WORD ✠



### OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 30:15–17*

(In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.)

<sup>15</sup>For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling,<sup>16</sup> and you said, “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away; and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. <sup>17</sup>A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM Psalm 90:1–12

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

People: **You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

Pastor: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

People: **For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

Pastor: For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

People: **Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

All: **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.**

*(Please Stand)*



**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 12:35–40

(Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.)

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup> “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



**NICENE CREED**

LSB 158

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** “God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392, v. 1

**God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

**Refrain:** **Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

**SONG OF THE DAY** “A Mighty Fortress”

Nockels

**Our God is a consuming fire  
A burning holy flame with glory and freedom  
Our God is the only righteous judge  
Ruling over us with kindness and wisdom**

**PRECHORUS 1:** **And we will keep our eyes on You  
We will keep our eyes on You**

**CHORUS:** A mighty fortress is our God  
A sacred refuge is Your name  
Your Kingdom is unshakable  
With You forever we will reign

Our God is jealous for His own  
None could comprehend His love and His mercy  
Our God is exalted on His throne  
High above the heavens forever He is worthy **PRE CHORUS 1, CHORUS X2**

*Instrumental*

**PRECHORUS 2:** We will keep our eyes on You  
We will keep our eyes on You  
So we can set our hearts on You  
Lord we will set our hearts on You **CHORUS**

**With You forever we will reign  
With You forever we will reign**

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**SERMON** Guest Preacher, Pastoral Assistant, Trevor Freudenburg

*(Please Stand)*



**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*LSB 733; Psalm 90:12; John 16:33*

*The prayer responses are sung.*

**Pastor:** As we approach a new year, let us pray to our God who has been our help in ages past and will be our hope for years to come.

O God, our help, You have been our rock and fortress in times past. As we look forward to the new year, we ask that You would grant us faith to look to You as our hope for years to come.

**People:** **O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:**

**Pastor:** O God, our help, You have blessed Your saints on earth with Your presence, and You welcome to Your nearer presence those who have died in Christ. Give us hearts that trust in You to defend us in the new year and to dwell with You for all eternity.

**People:** **Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.**

**Pastor:** O God, our help, You are eternal—without beginning or end. As the circumstances of life change and the creation longs for Christ's return, give us eyes of faith to see that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

**People:** **Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.**

Pastor: O God, our help, to You a thousand years are like a day, and a day like a thousand years. Give to us patience that we may await Your Son's return with eager hearts knowing that Your timing is perfect.

**People: A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.**

Pastor: O God, our help, as the old year comes to an end, we recognize our own mortality. In the face of death, comfort us with the hope of the resurrection, and during this life, "teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

**People: Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.**

Pastor: O God, our help, in this new year, keep us ever mindful of our Savior's words: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

**People: O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!**

*(Special Petitions)*

Pastor: O Lord, into Your hands we commend this new year, trusting in Your mercy,

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



### OFFERING

*(Please Stand)*



### BENEDICTION

Pastor: God Almighty—the Father, who is ever with us and for us, the ✠ Son, who reveals to us God's grace, mercy, and love in all of our years, and the Holy Spirit, who guides us in ways of peace and faithfulness—bless you now and forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG** “Great are You Lord”

Ingram/Jordan/Leonard

**You give life You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken  
And great are You Lord**

**CHORUS: It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only REPEAT SONG, CHORUS X1**

*Instrumental*

**BRIDGE: And all the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing  
Great are You Lord REPEAT X2, CHORUS X2**  
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**POSTLUDE**

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**POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS GREENS ARE GIVEN BY:**

*Randy & Sharon Agne with praise to God from whom all blessings flow and for health & healing  
Carl Anderson in loving memory of Linda Anderson, R.N., wife, mother and grandmother  
Donna Arrigo to my mom for leading me to Jesus and to Christ Jesus for saving me  
Joe & Bonita Benda to the glory of God and gifts received  
Diane Broughton & Ed Shimamoto a blessed Christmas to our families  
Jim & Cheryl Chambers to the glory of God!  
Betty Clark in loving memory of my husband, Dennis  
Pastor Clark and family in thankfulness to God for the staff of Ascension Lutheran Church  
and for the faculty of Word of Life Lutheran School  
Don & Eileen Cognata for blessing received  
John & Charlene Cook we give thanks for family, friends and Ascension  
Kathleen Driskill to our risen Savior and Ralph and Audrey Simon  
The Fox Family for blessings received!  
Evelyn Gibbs in loving memory of my parents, John & Ruth Good  
Clarence & Carol Goetsch to the glory of God  
The Hartung Family to the glory of God and the blessings received through Christ our Lord  
The Jaenke Family for a healthy, prosperous 2018 for all  
Jerry & Arleen Kassing in memory of our son, John and our parents  
Roberta Kern & Tyler Kern in memory of Joseph J. Dietrich Sr., In Jesus' loving arms  
Robert & Lawanda Kieffer in memory of our parents Oscar & Esther Kieffer  
and Henry & Anna Ruegge  
James & Kathy Komorech with thanksgiving for blessings received  
Carlos & Marla Lopez with thanksgiving for His many blessings  
Donna Marohn in memory of mother, Edna Rushing, mother-in-law, Clara Marohn  
and sister, Dorothy Hartmann  
Roy & Kathy Migneco with thankfulness for God's many blessings  
The Moffat family in memory of Barbara Halliburton  
Jean Mueller in memory of all my loved ones who are now celebrating Christmas with Jesus  
Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky in loving memory of Craig, parents and grandparents  
Jack & Jan Pendleton thankful for God's greatest gift, Jesus  
The Pfaff family to the glory of God  
Pat Pfitzinger with thanks for many blessings and for my family  
Doug & Ruth Pritchard in memory of loved ones  
Vernon & Debbie Schmidt for the blessing of Calvin and in memory of our parents in heaven  
Carolyn Schwaninger with thanks and praise to God for 95 years of blessings  
The Thies family to the glory of God!  
Peggy Triska for the blessing of the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, family, and friends  
Darleen Wiederhold in loving memory of Gene Wiederhold  
Jack & Cindy Winter in memory of Harold Todd who loved Christmas and his Savior*







For  
unto  
you is  
born this  
day in the  
city of David  
a saviour, which  
is Christ the Lord.

Luke  
2:11

Blessings to All!

Your Ascension Staff

Pastor Clark

Jerry Kesson

Dabe Maichel

Sherry Edlert

Ann Fox

Barbara Hartung

Kathy  
Shies

Tina A. Freudenberg