

NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2018

5:00 pm



AS WE GATHER

This evening, we are very aware of the passage of time. Although the past year may have included toil and stress, hardship, and tests of faith, our gracious God has not forsaken us. His Son entered our time and space; He knows the daily toil; He lived a perfect life in our place. And now He continues to forgive and strengthen us each day. This is a watch-night service, in which we respond to each Reading with contrition and forgiveness. We are being given the gift of time in which to admit our past foolishness and to rejoice in God's surrounding strength. Our prayer is that God would "establish the work of our hands" in the coming year; that is, that He would help us make the most of the time He so graciously bestows on us. It is time to ask God to "teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (*Psalm 90:12*).

RINGING OF THE BELLS



WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

LSB 390

**Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.**

**To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.**

**We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.**

**Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 90:1, 12, 17*

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place

People: in all generations.

Pastor: So teach us to number our days

People: that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Pastor: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

People: and establish the work of our hands upon us;

All: Yes, establish the work of our hands!



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 90:3; Romans 8:31b-32*

Pastor: In today’s Psalm, we are reminded of our own mortality. Moses writes, “You return man to dust and say, ‘Return, O children of man!’ ” We are by nature sinful and unclean. We sin daily throughout the year. We recognize that the wages of sin is death. At the close of this year and beginning a new one, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?” 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.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God,

People: **we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.**

Pastor: 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,

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

(Please Be Seated)



OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 30: 15–17* (“A signal on a hill”)

¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ 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. [¹⁷] 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; antiphon: v. 17* (“Teach us to number our days.”)

Pastor: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;

People: **yes, establish the work of our hands!**

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Men: *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.*

Women: *You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"*

Pastor: For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Men: *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.*

Women: *For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed.*

Pastor: You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

Men: *For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.*

Women: *The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;*

Pastor: yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Men: *Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?*

Women: *So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

Pastor: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
People: **yes, establish the work of our hands!**

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**



EPISTLE *Romans 8:31b–39* (“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”)

Lector: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

People: **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**

Lector: As it is written, “For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

People: **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia,**



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.**

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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.**



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

(Please Be Seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY "Across the Sky the Shades of Night"

LSB 899

**Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting.
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting;
And as the year's last hours go by, We raise to You our earnest cry,
Once more Your love entreating.**

**Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer addressing,
Recounting all Your mercies now, And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching You this coming year To keep us in Your faith and fear
And crown us with Your blessing.**

**We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of Your mercies:
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r Our grateful song rehearses;
For You have been our strength and stay In many a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.**

We now remember, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your caring
Who brightly shine in endless day, Past death and all despairing.
At our life's end, Lord, as Your own, Bring us with them around Your throne,
The joys of heaven sharing.

Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us,
And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
When heav'n itself shall hide us.



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Psalm 90:12; John 16:33; LSB 733*

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.**

(Please be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

(Please Stand)

OFFERTORY “Create in Me a Clean Heart” *LSB 192*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen**



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Your love has sustained us in the past year, and we trust Your promise that nothing can separate us from Your love shown in Christ in the year to come. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB 358

**“From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:**

**“To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

**“This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.**

**“He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.**

**“These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”**

**How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherd let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.**

**Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.**

**Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.**

**Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!**

**Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.**

**Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.**

**And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.**

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.**

**My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

(Please Stand)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LSB 805

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING *Luther's Evening Prayer, adapted*

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this year; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me in this new year also. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



BENEDICTION *Psalm 124:8; 90:12*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: So teach us to number our days

People: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB 922

**Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing You are My own.**

**Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**

**Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.**

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POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP NOTES

MUSIC MINISTRY: Gabe Maichel, organist

ALTAR GUILD: Jan Pendleton

ELDERS: Jack Pendleton

USHERS: Karl Hofmann, Robert Hofmann, Ed Holderle

POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS GREENS ARE GIVEN BY:

Carl Anderson in loving memory of Linda Anderson, R.N., wife, mother, grandmother, child of God

The Benda Family in loving memory of Charlie Benda and to the glory of God

Diane Broughton & Ed Shimamoto Christmas blessings to our families and friends

Jim & Cheryl Chambers glory to God!

Betty Clark in loving memory of my husband, Dennis Clark

Pastor Matt and Lisa Clark in thanksgiving for the ministry of Ascension and Word of Life

Don & Eileen Cognata for blessing received

John & Charlene Cook thanks be to God for health, happiness, and love

Cindy, Sarah & Sean Cooney in loving memory of Robert J. Cooney

Larry & Pearline Degenhardt to the glory of Christ Jesus

Kathleen Driskill to the glory of God and in memory of Ralph and Audrey Simon

Jane Fryar in thanksgiving to God for His gift of our Savior

Evelyn Gibbs in loving memory of my parents, John & Ruth Good

Clarence & Carol Goetsch the Lord's Blessing for health and good friends

Arlene Headrick in memory of my loving husband, Paul Headrick

Patrick Hill to the glory of God

Jerry & Arleen Kassing in memory of our son, John and our parents

Roberta Kern & Tyler Kern in loving memory of Joseph J. Dietrich Sr., Love you and miss you. Always in our hearts.

James & Kathy Komorech with thanksgiving for blessings received

Carlos & Marla Lopez thankful for health and blessings received

Bill & Marlene Maxfield in honor of Sharon & Randy Agne for all they do for God's people

Jean Mueller in loving memory of husband, Lew Mueller

Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky in loving memory of son, Craig

Jack & Jan Pendleton with joyfulness at Jesus' birth

The Pfaff family to the glory of God

Pat Pfitzinger with thanks for many blessings

Jim Preston Jr. & Tracey Wing for blessings received

Doug & Ruth Pritchard in memory of parents at Christmas

Vernon & Debbie Schmidt thankful for all blessings and our grandchild

The Seifert Family for blessings received and in memory of loved ones

The Thies family for blessings received

Peggy Triska in memory of Shirley Triska and her love of Christmas and family

Darleen Wiederhold in loving memory of Gene Wiederhold

Jack & Cindy Winter for blessings received – especially our Savior

