

NEW YEAR'S EVE

DECEMBER 31, 2021 5:00PM

REV. MATTHEW CLARK

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LOVED BY CHRIST

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Word of Life Lutheran School

WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES

5:00 pm Saturday Worship

8:15 am Sunday Worship

9:45 am Sunday School and Bible Class

11:00 am Sunday Worship (Contemporary Music)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2021 5:00 pm

AS WE GATHER

In various communities throughout the world, New Year's Eve is referred to as "Watch Night." It is not uncommon to find followers of Jesus gather in homes and in churches on this night to "keep watch" and pray as one year ends and another year arrives. Some say that these traditions date back to December 31, 1862, when enslaved Christians trimmed their lamps and, with great anticipation, waited for the clock to strike midnight. At the stroke of midnight, the Emancipation Proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln went into effect, and many slaves would celebrate their newfound freedom. As we gather with fellow believers tonight, we reflect on the year that is nearly over and the one that is soon to begin. Just as our gracious Savior was faithful in the past, He will remain with us in the coming year. Let us also keep watch and, with great anticipation, be ready for His appearing and the salvation He comes to bring.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

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.**

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

P Lord, You have been our dwelling place

C in all generations.

P So teach us to number our days

C that we may get a heart of wisdom.

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

C Yes, establish the work of our hands!

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

(If you would like private confession and absolution, please call the office at (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)

P 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.

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

P "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.

C Amen.

(or)

A 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*

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME *LSB 358, v. 1 & 15*

**"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:**

**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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Eternal God,

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

- P** 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,
C **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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 90:1–12; antiphon: v. 17* (“Teach us to number our days.”)

- P** Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
C **yes, establish the work of our hands!**

P 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!”*

P 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.*

P 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;*

P 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.*

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

C yes, establish the work of our hands!

C **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?”)

A 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.

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

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

C **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.**

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE: O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

LSB 733, v. 1

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

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:35–40* (Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C **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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **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: NOW GREET THE SWIFTLY CHANGING YEAR LSB 896

SERMON

(Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Refrain: LSB 809 Sung*

P Trusting that the Lord Jesus is even now interceding for us, let us pray for the Church, the world, and ourselves:

C **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

P That those who serve to keep us safe and help us in times of need—police officers, firefighters, nurses, EMTs, utility workers, road workers—carry out their tasks for the good of all, that the new year brings peace and prosperity to all in our community according to God’s will:

C **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

P That those who struggle with poor health, [*especially . . .*], find hope and encouragement in the promise that nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, that those who are lonely during this season of the year experience the presence of Christ in their lives:

C **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

(Special Petitions)

P Trusting in Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever, let all God’s people say:

C **Amen.**

(Please be Seated)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper.

How should we each examine ourselves before coming to Holy Communion?

1. Be aware of our sins and be sorry for them
2. Believe in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His words in the Sacrament
3. Intend, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as God's forgiven people walking in newness of life

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalms 136*]

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

HYMN VERSE: O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

LSB 733, v. 2 & 3

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

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

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;*

1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

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

C 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

ACROSS THE SKY THE SHADES OF NIGHT

LSB 899

LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME

LSB 722

EVENING AND MORNING

LSB 726

(Please Stand)

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

LSB 733, v. 6

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

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

P Let us pray.

C 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*

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

P So teach us to number our days

C that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

P 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*

C 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.**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP NOTES

MUSIC MINISTRY: Gabe Maichel, organist
ACOLYTES: Volunteers
ALTAR GUILD: Jan Pendleton
ELDERS: Jack Pendleton
USHERS: Volunteers

POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS GREENS ARE GIVEN BY:



Randy & Sharon Agne Heavenly Father we ask be near us, Lord Jesus. We ask you to stay close by us forever and in thanksgiving for the blessing of our church family, our family and friends

Joe & Bonita Benda to the glory of God and for the blessing of grandchildren

Diane Broughton & Ed Shimamoto-Christmas blessings to our family

Jim & Cheryl Chambers to our Lord and Savior

Pastor Matt, Lisa, Noah & Anna Clark in thanksgiving for the Ascension staff,

WOL faculty, and our church family

Kathy Driskill to the glory of God for His many blessings!

Sherry Elliott in loving memory of my parents, Amos & Alice Trout

The Fox Family with thankfulness for all God's gifts

The Jones Family with thanks for the beautiful Christmas decorations for Erica's wedding

Roberta Kern in loving memory of Joseph J. Dietrich Sr., missed and loved beyond words

Debra Meyer in memory of Art & Shirley Kuecker and Dave & Florence Meyer

The Nickolotsky Family in loving memory of Craig, our son, brother and uncle

Jack & Jan Pendleton being thankful for our Savior, Jesus and in memory of Jim Pendleton

The Pfaffs to the glory of God

Doug & Ruth Pritchard in memory of our parents

Cathy & Vic Salini-May God continue to bless this congregation richly!

Vernon & Debbie Schmidt for a multitude of blessings received

