



New Year's Eve Worship Service

Endings and Beginnings

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

As We Gather

Tomorrow, we celebrate the beginning of the new year. For many, that will mean a family gathering, a meal, and stories about the past. On this New Year's Eve, many will make New Year's resolutions—something they intend to change in the upcoming year. There is a good chance you already know where you will spend that time, often with family, food, and storytelling. Have you ever considered there is a day coming that will be like no other before it? That day will be a day of judgment and salvation. It will be a day when wickedness is forever vanquished to the pits of hell and the righteous will celebrate with a feast and the story of our salvation told. It will be a day of change—one the world has never seen before and never will again. Thanks be to God for that day—let us look forward to it with great joy!

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Opening Hymn “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” *LSB* 816

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father,

C: who loved us with a fatherly love before He created the world;

P: and of His Son, Jesus, our Savior,

C: who loved us and left His throne in heaven to redeem us with His blood;

P: and of the Holy Spirit,

C: by whom we were sanctified, bringing us to faith and keeping us in the faith. Amen.

Opening Sentences

P: Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors, and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

C: I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many—terror on every side!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

P: But I trust in You, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in Your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

C: Make Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your steadfast love!

Confession and Absolution

P: Dearly beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ, we gather on this last day of the year to worship our God and to receive the Lord’s Supper.

C: We are also called by the apostle Paul: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”

P: Lift up your hearts, and joyfully give answer to the questions I shall now ask you. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness?

C: Yes, I confess it; I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.

P: How do you know this? **C: From the Ten Commandments. I have sinned against God and against my neighbor.**

P: Are you sorry that you have sinned against God and your neighbor?

C: Yes, it bothers my conscience that I have sinned against God and my neighbor.

P: Where will you look for comfort and forgiveness?

C: Only to the mercy and grace of God, which He demonstrated by sending Jesus to the cross and then to rise from the tomb. There is no other place.

P: Do you repent of your sins?

C: Yes, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, I will turn from my sins and live a holy life.

P: Indeed, you should turn from your sins, as did Simon Peter, Paul, and all who have believed. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God for His gifts of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this previous year, with all its blessings, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this coming year, filled with both blessings and challenges from You, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy, and direct us by Your grace.

P: That we might love our neighbors more this year than last year,

C: we ask for Your mercy as we need it—hear our prayer.

P: For this holy house, and all gathered tonight,

C: and all those outside, that You would cover them with Your mercy, not our judgment, hear our prayer.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, O Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn of Praise “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” *LSB* 733

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you and bless you on the departure of an old year and the beginning of a new year.

C: The Lord also be with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we know there will be a glorious day when You shall return and have everyone bow their knee to our Lord Jesus. As that day hastens toward us, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we might meet it and Him rightly; this we ask in the name of Jesus, who with the Holy Spirit is one God and one Lord, forever and ever. **C: Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 51:4–6*

(after the reading)...

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Psalms 90:12, 14*

P: Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

C: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Epistle *Romans 8:31b–39*

(after the reading)...

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Verse

P: Alleluia. The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him. **C: Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Luke 12:35–40*

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord. *(after the reading)...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” LSB 809

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

C: Lord, we ask in Your mercy to hear and answer our prayers.

P: Almighty God, You created this world from nothing, and by Your will it exists to this day;

C: yet there is coming a day when You will be revealed, the world will be judged, and we will be home forever.

P: We know that we are but strangers here;

C: heaven is our home. Bring us home as You have planned before the creation of the world.

P: We look around our world, and we do not understand it;

C: we see things we do not understand, such as violence against others, and our hearts are broken.

P: We long for the day Isaiah prophesied that will come;

C: today, however, You have made us Your hands, feet, and heart to other people as long as we are here.

P: Therefore, we lift up those who are suffering in this life, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, be with them, provide for their needs, and comfort them in their hour of affliction, reminding them of their great reward.

C: Help us remember Paul's reminder that our sufferings are not worthy of being compared with the glory that awaits us.

P: You have commanded us to pray for rulers everywhere in Your Word.

C: We lift up our President, all members of Congress, and our state and local leaders, and ask that they would be led by Your Spirit to make decisions pleasing to You and helpful for us, as well as all who rule this world.

P: For those whose needs are not known to us, we lift them up in silence, knowing You will hear and answer. (*A moment of silence is observed.*)

P: Lord Jesus, we look forward to the day when tomorrow is no more;

C: hear our prayers and keep us in the true faith, so we need not worry about tomorrow or eternity;

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, the same yesterday, today, and forever. **C: Amen.**

Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards

Offertory Hymn “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” *LSB 805*

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times give thanks to You, holy Lord, everlasting God, almighty Father; for by Your will we were created before the beginning of the world and by Your grace alone we will see the Last Day unfold. By the cross alone and on Your grace does our hope rest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You...one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

Distribution

Distribution Hymns “Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB 368*; “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *LSB 379* “Go Tell It on the Mountain” *LSB 388*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Benediction

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. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" *LSB* 895