

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2020



Christ Lutheran Church
North St. Paul & **Hugo**, Minnesota
December 31, 2020 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME to this final worship gathering of the year. May the Lord who governs time and all things encourage and comfort you through His holy and timeless Truth.

God bless your worship!

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Across the Sky the Shades of Night
CW #69:1-3



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This
2 We gath - er up in this brief hour The
3 Be - fore the cross, sub - dued, we bow, To



New Year's Eve are fleet - ing. We deck your al - tar,
mem - 'ry of your mer - cies. Your won - drous good - ness,
you our prayers ad - dress - ing, Re - count - ing all your



Lord, with light, In sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing, And,
love, and pow'r Our grate - ful song re - hears - es, For
mer - cies now And all our sins con - fess - ing. We



as the year's last hours go by, We raise to you our
you have been our strength and stay In man - y a dark and
ask you, Lord, this com - ing year To keep us in your



ear - nest cry, Once more your love en - treat - ing.
drear - y day Of sor - row and re - vers - es.
faith and fear And crown us with your bless - ing.

INVOCATION AND RESPONSES

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,

C: And a thousand years are like a day.

M: I trust in you, O LORD:

C: I say, "You are my God."

M: My times are in your hands,

C: Deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

M: Let your face shine on your servant;

C: Save me in your unfailing love.

M: Let me not be put to shame, O LORD,

C: For I have cried out to you:

M: How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you,

C: That you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.

Prayer of the Evening

M: Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think seriously about the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the New Year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 38:1-8

God shows that he has our times in his hands as he adds fifteen years to King Hezekiah's life.

In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are

going to die; you will not recover.”² Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,³ “Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah:⁵ “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life.’⁶ And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city.”⁷ “This is the LORD’s sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised:⁸ I will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.” So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down.

PSALM 31 *Cantor: Verses; Congregation: Refrain & “Glory be...”*

Refrain

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Psalm tone

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;* deliver me in your righteousness.

Be my rock of refuge,* a strong fortress to save me.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;* redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. ***Refrain***

My times are in your hands;* save me in your unfailing love.

How great is your goodness,* which you have stored up for those who fear you.

You heard my cry for mercy* when I called to you for help.

**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***

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THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:22-25

*St. Peter contrasts our mortal, fragile lives with the eternal word of God.
That word gave us new lives that generate Christian love and imperishable lives in heaven one day.*

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 13:22-31

*Jesus calls us to set our hearts on spiritual matters above all,
trusting God will provide everything we need to live.*

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁶Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

M: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year
CWS # 708

Songleader: st 1,3,5

Congregation: st.2,4,6,7



1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With
2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God And
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The
5 With him as Lord to lead our way In



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re -
how he shed his in - fant blood. Re -
name of names for us he bore. Re -
vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re -
haz - ard and pros - per - i - ty, What



joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -
joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -
joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -
joyce! Re - joyce! With thanks em - brace An -
need we fear in earth or space In



oth - er year of grace.
oth - er year of grace.
oth - er year of grace.
oth - er year of grace.
this new year of grace?

6 "All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this new year of grace.

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Our Times Are In God's Hands!

OFFERING

Offering will be received in back

PRAYER FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

M: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

M: It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

M: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

M: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself-all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

C: Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us in the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE SACRAMENT

We are a "sacramental" church. We believe that in Baptism and the Lord's supper, God comes to us with forgiveness in very tangible means. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in the sacrament and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We do not want to be presumptuous and put you in a position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we have had an opportunity to explain them. We do look forward to any opportunity to discuss with you the Christian faith.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: In Holy Baptism, God gives us the Holy Spirit who works in us both the desire to throw off the slavery of sin and the power to live a new life. May the Lord renew us in body, mind and spirit.

(prayer) Father of mercies and God of all comfort, you are our strength every morning, our comfort every evening, and our salvation in times of distress. With contrite hearts and troubled spirits we come to you this New Year's Eve for healing and help. Create in us pure hearts and wash away all our sins in the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and refresh us with your Holy Spirit that we may declare your praise and teach your saving ways; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone this year, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C: Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness into his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: To further assure us that forgiveness is ours, our Lord Jesus instituted a Holy Supper through which we receive his very body and blood, together with the bread and wine. Therefore, fellow communicants, approach the table with believing hearts, firmly trusting that the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are offered and sealed in this Supper.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took break, and when he had given thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, “Drink from it, all of you. 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 tonight and always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Abide With Me
CW # 588



1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst smile,
5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour.



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
Earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way.
But kind and good, with heal - ing in thy wings,
And though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean - while,
What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea;
Thou hast not left me oft as I left thee.
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?



Help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me!
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me!
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
On to the close, O Lord, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me!

- 6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.
- 7 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

CLOSING PRAYER

M: God, our Father, by the sacrifice of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself. We thank you for the precious gift of forgiveness. Refresh us with the joy of our salvation that we walk in the way of peace with our brothers and sisters in the New Year ahead. Renew our minds and wills that daily we trust and speak your word of peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The blessing of the Triune God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit be upon us: his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, his peace to unite us.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Christ Be My Leader
CW #367



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day,
2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;



Safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way.
Drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth.
Death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor



Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care;
Grant me to trust him, though shift - ing as sand.
dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain Can



Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
Doubt can - not daunt me— in Je - sus I stand!
touch my sal - va - tion— with Je - sus I reign!

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Tune: SLANE (Irregular) Irish folk tune.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Acknowledgements:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mark Wessel Organ: Stephanie Lindloff Songleader: Bruce Baumeister

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