

New Year's Eve

God Is for Us!

December 31, 2017

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.

WELCOME

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #726 “Evening and Morning”

Evening and morning, sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace, and gladness, Comfort in sadness:
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
Times without number, Awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us, From danger preserves us,
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me, Pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors, Blot out my errors
That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.
Order my goings, Direct all my doings;
As it may please Thee, Retain or release me;
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me;
Though billows tower, And winds gain power,
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing:
These shall I treasure And share in full measure
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given!
Come, let us offer And gladly proffer
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.
He well receiveth A heart that believeth;
Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

(Rise)

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: It's a new year. The old has gone; the new has come. Or has it? Don't we tend to drag all our old worries and fears and problems into the new year with us? And then we look ahead and wonder—and perhaps even fear—what the new year will bring, whether joy or sorrow, blessing or trouble, sickness or health. The beginning of a new year can be exciting and fresh. It can also be daunting and depressing as we realize the things we should have said, should have accomplished, or on the other hand, those things we should not have said or done. The new year gives us a time for pause and reflection. Let us take a few moments to silently confess our sinful failings to our God and ask Him for grace and renewal.

(Silence for reflection)

Pastor: “For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” Let us return to the Lord, confident that He will grant us forgiveness as we turn in repentance to Him. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to walk in your ways and live in a manner that brings honor to your name. We are by nature sinful and are condemned by our sin-filled thoughts, words, and deeds. Grant us forgiveness and a new start for our lives. 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN #394**“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

Stanzas 1 & 5

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
 Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
 Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word
 Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;
 That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany
 And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

People: and the day is almost over.

Pastor: Let your light scatter the darkness

People: and illumine your Church.

(Be seated)

HYMN #810**“O God of God, O Light of Light”**

O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
 To You in heav-en’s glory bright The song of praise forever rings.
 To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again,
 Be all the glory He has won, All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

For deep in prophets’ sacred page, And grand in poets’ winged word,
 Slowly in type, from age to age The nations saw their coming Lord;
 Till through the deep Judean night Rang out the son, “Good-will to men!”
 Sung once by first-born sons of light, It echoes now, “Good-will!” Amen.

That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in hate and scorn-
 These all are past, and now above He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates! So sang that host beyond our ken.
 Lift up your heads, your King awaits. We lift them up. Amen, amen.

Then raise to Christ a mighty song, And shout His name, His mercies tell!
 Sing, heav’n-ly host, your praise prolong, And all on earth, your anthem swell!
 All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain! Forever let the song ascend!
 Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, All glory, pow’r! Amen, amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 30:8–17* (In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.) And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter’s vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.” 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, 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. 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.

NEW TESTAMENT *Romans 8:31-39*

What then shall we say to these things? 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. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 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.

(Rise)

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

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 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. 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. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 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. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

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

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.

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

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

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

SERMON “If God Is For Us”

Romans 8:31

HYMN #941 “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”

We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.

To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:

“O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”

The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
“O all majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Comforter forever Three in One!”

You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev’ry one:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin’s womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve
You opened heaven’s kingdom to all who would believe.

You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God’s right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that you will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us. God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: May your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Strengthen us by your Spirit according to your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to your good and gracious will. Into your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in you to provide for all our needs. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before you, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

(Rise)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In Him, the light of the world, you have manifested the fullness of your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,

including our dear ones in your gracious keeping, we laud and magnify your holy name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are you, gracious God, for in your great mercy you sent your only-begotten Son into our flesh to be our Savior. You have graciously given us the gift of faith and have safely brought us to the conclusion of another year of grace. Grant us to remain strong in faith and imbued with your goodness throughout the coming year, that with joy and thankfulness we may receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in our Lord's body and blood.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #609 “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e’er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev’ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

HYMN #883 “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”

All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, Beneath Thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die that so I may Rise glorious at the awefull day.

Oh, may my soul in Thee repose, And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that shall me more vig’rous make To serve my God when I awake!

When in the night I sleepless lie, My soul with heav’nly thoughts supply;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest, No pow’rs of darkness me molest.

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.

HYMN #724 “If God Himself Be For Me” Stanzas 1-5, 8

Tune: Missionary Hymn #LSB 835

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from His love?

I build on this foundation, that Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation, My true, eternal good.
Without Him all that pleases Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus Alone have priceless worth.

Christ Jesus is my splendor, My sun, my light, alone;
Were He not my defender Before God’s judgment throne,
I never should find favor And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever As darkness by the light.

He canceled my offenses, Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses My soul from sin through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful, Courageous on my way;
In him I am not fearful Of God’s great Judgment Day.

For no one can condemn me Or set my hope aside;
Now hell no more can claim me; It’s fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me, No guilt destroys my peace;
For Christ, my Savior, loves me And shields me with His grace.

No danger, thirst, or hunger, No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant’s anger Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder, My fortress You shall be;
No fire or sword or thunder Shall sever You from me.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that you have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we share your name in all that we do in our daily living; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #922 “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

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.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lector
Acolyte
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Nik Mueller
Ryann Gutknecht
Michelle Prince

A graphic with the words "Happy New Year!" in a large, blue, 3D-style font. The letters are decorated with colorful streamers and confetti, giving it a festive appearance.

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