

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

It's about Time  
December 31, 2018

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### AS WE GATHER

This evening, we are very aware of the passage of time. For a while, at least, we are heeding our Lord's admonition to watch and be ready for His return. 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" (*Psalms 90:12*).

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING HYMN #390 "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"

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 W 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.

(Rise)

#### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

**People: The time came, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn son.**

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law,

**People: to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**

Pastor: So teach us to number our days,

**People: that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God promised that if they would return and rest, they would be saved. The promise is for us as well. Repentance and allowing God to rescue us is gracious good news, if we would only hear it.

**People: We confess that we have too often preferred to rely on our possessions and plans. We have neglected to consider that our gracious God wants us to trust only Him for daily bread and all that we need. O Lord, forgive us for Jesus' sake.**

Pastor: Our Savior was left as a lone flagstaff on a mountain on the cross of Calvary. To atone for our reliance on ourselves instead of on our Father in heaven, He committed His spirit, faithful to the end. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE #352 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord –  
Him of two-fold race behold – Truly came, as long foretold.

As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.

Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

#### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have sustained us through the toils of the year now ending.

**People: Give us such an awareness of your presence in the new year that we can live confidently through each day no matter its joys or sorrows,**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

✠ **WORD** ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 30:15–17* (Sometimes God’s people do not rely on His promise of salvation.) 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: How then shall we be saved?**

Lector: God’s answer is in the Epistle reading.

**EPISTLE** *Romans 8:31b–39* (We are more than conquerors, no matter what opposition may arise.)

Lector: If God is for us, who can be against us?

**People: 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?**

Lector: Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect?

**People: It is God who justifies.**

Lector: Who is to condemn?

**People: 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.**

Lector: 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.”

**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, we can live confident lives in Christ!**

(Rise)

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 12:35–40* (Jesus exhorts vigilance every day.)

“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.”

**Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

**SERMON HYMN #743 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”**

Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me,  
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine! I will suffer naught to hide Thee;  
Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking, Ev’ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.  
Lightnings flash And thunders crash; Yet, though sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.  
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me  
While I sing of peace. God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;  
Earth and all its depths adore Him, Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.  
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me  
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me, Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me, Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r, Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within. Yea, whate'er I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure!

**SERMON**                      *"The Reliability of Our God"*

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

5 (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.

(Rise)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: As we enter into a New Year, let us pray to God, our Father, praying for the whole Christian Church on earth and for all people according to their needs. Lord God, we praise you for sending your Son in our flesh to fulfill the Law on our behalf. We thank you that although we sin much, He is our righteousness and peace. As we enter a New Year, grant us to trust His grace and mercy and to live our lives in Him day by day. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of every good gift, we thank you for the countless blessings you have given this past year — for the whole of our lives, our well-being and, above all, the gift of your saving Word. Teach us to number our days so that the blessings and distractions of this life never turn our hearts from you. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Eternal God, you have been our dwelling place in every generation, but our years pass quickly. As this year draws to a close, prepare our hearts for your Son's return. Forgive the sins of this past year — those we know and those unknown to us. Heal any division in our families, friendships and in this church. Keep us faithful to Christ our Lord in the coming year, repentant of our sins, and confident in His mercy and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious Father, calm the hearts of those who look to the future with foreboding or fear, rather than with confidence and hope. For all who face illness, pain and suffering, and those to whom death draws near, give the peace that only you can give. We pray especially for Nancy, Don, Barbara, Larry, Marge, Dolores, Herb, Cliff, Cindy, LuEva, Arlene, Dick, Nancy, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Leonard and Sarah. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O God, bless this land in the new year. Give us honest work, effective education and leaders of good character. Save us from violence and discord, bringing a common purpose and harmony where there is division. As our elected officials serve in the coming year, guide them to make wise decisions and establish policies and laws that serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, by your incarnation you joined divinity to humanity and humanity to divinity. Keep all doubts far from us, knowing that as the God-Man you have won our salvation. Give us faith in your promises, and make us worthy, through simple, repentant faith, to eat and drink your body and blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

### “Christ, Lamb of God”

Christ, Lamb of God, to You we pray; Take all our sins away,  
Grant us Your peace in the new year, Peace in our hearts this day.

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(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 #628 “Your Table I Approach”

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

## HYMN #746 “Through Jesus’ Blood and Merit”

Through Jesus’ blood and merit I am at peace with God.

What, then, can daunt my spirit, However dark my road?

My courage shall not fail me, For God is on my side;

Though hell itself assails me, Its rage I may deride.

There’s nothing that can sever From this great love of God;

No want, no pain whatever, No famine, peril, flood.

Though thousand foes surround me, For slaughter mark His sheep,

They never shall confound me, The vict’ry I shall reap.

For neither life’s temptation Nor death’s most trying hour

Nor angels of high station Nor any other pow’r

Nor things that now are present Nor things that are to come

Nor height, however pleasant, Nor darkest depths of gloom.

Nor any creature ever Shall from the love of God  
This ransomed sinner sever; For in my Savior's blood  
This love has its foundation; God hears my faithful prayer  
And long before creation Named me His child and heir.

**HYMN #919 "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"**

Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with your grace  
that satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light;  
Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and satan fell us And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,  
who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh,  
we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in  
this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but  
always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may  
be enabled constantly to serve you; 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 blessing of almighty God—the Father who called all things into  
existence, the Son who entered time and space to redeem us for  
eternity, and the Holy Spirit who strengthens us in good times and  
bad—be upon you, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord in the new year and always.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN #878 "Abide With Me"**

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.

The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;

What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?

Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,

But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;

Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.

Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;

Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;

Change and decay in all around I see;

O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

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!

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.

Preacher	Pastor Noah Kegley
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lector	Jodi Drew
Acolyte	Erika Graf
Organist	Michelle Prince
Bulletin Sponsors	Jerry & LuEva Daniel – Blessings in the New Year!