



Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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Rev. Gary Rohwer, Pastor

New Year's Eve

Numbering our Days Aright

December 31, 2022

As We Gather

Although New Year's Eve is more holiday than holy day, the people of God come together not simply to remember the passage of time but to commend their days to the Lord. Our time is lived in God's hands. The world acknowledges the passage of a year, but the Church sees us another year closer to the Lord's return to finish all things. We live out our days not as the fearful who do not know what is ahead but as the confident who pray for God to finish the days here and begin eternity. Faith to anticipate and greet our eternal future is faith strong enough to meet whatever changes this world holds.



PREPARATION

Welcome

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

sts. 1-6



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, 6 O God, our help in ages past,
 Soon bears us all away; Our hope for years to come,
We fly forgotten as a dream Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 Dies at the op'ning day. And our eternal home!

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only 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. May God who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day our Lord Jesus Christ returns.
- C** Amen.

WORD

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

- P** 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. 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 90:1–12

- ¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- ²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³You return man to dust
and say, “Return, O children of man!”
- ⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
- ⁵You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
- ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- ⁷For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
- ⁸You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- ⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- ¹⁰The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- ¹¹Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Epistle

Romans 8:31b–39

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:35–40

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

³⁵[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and 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. ³⁷Blessed 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. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But 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. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Jesus keep me near the cross
There a precious fountain
Free to all a healing stream
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain

Chorus
In the cross in the cross
Be my glory ever
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river

2 Near the cross a trembling soul
Love and mercy found me
There the Bright and Morning Star
Sheds its beams around me; Chorus

3 Near the cross O Lamb of God
Bring its scenes before me
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadows o'er me; Chorus

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait
Hoping trusting ever
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river; Chorus

Text: William Howard Doane; Fanny Jane Crosby Text: Public domain

Sermon

“Teach Us to Number Our Days”

Apostles' Creed

**☩ 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.**

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Silence for prayer and meditation.

- P** O Lord, You created all things and filled all time and space with Your mercy and grace. Give to us now the faith to acknowledge that our times lie in Your hands that we live without fear the days You give us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** All that exists is sustained by Your power, O Lord. Give us wisdom that we number our days and apply our hearts in wisdom to the things that matter. Give to Your Church faithful pastors who will preach Your Word without compromise and call the unbelieving to faith and comfort the believing, that in all things Christ be glorified and we be saved. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** You rule all things, O Lord, and those to whom You have entrusted governance are accountable to You. Give to us wise leaders who will hear and heed Your Word, protect life from its natural beginning to its natural end, and defend us against all our enemies. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** As You have given us so many and great blessings, O Lord, give us also a grateful heart to receive Your goodness and use Your gifts wisely. Accept from our mouths the song of praise and from our hands the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** From Your grace comes the bread that nourishes our bodies and the Bread of Life that feeds us eternal life. Help us, through repentance and faith, to receive Christ's flesh and blood so that this Communion may nurture us body and soul to everlasting life by the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** You are the hope of the troubled, the rest of the dying, and the healer of the sick, O God of grace. Hear us now for those afflicted in body or spirit, that they be sustained through the day of trouble and granted

comfort, patience, and perfect healing through Christ, [*especially . . .*].
Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, Your mercies are new every morning, and Your Word is our lamp and our light. Help us so to walk in Your ways that in time of persecution and threat we be steadfast in faith. Guide us, Father, through the uncertainties and anxieties we meet, with the confidence that if we are Yours, we have nothing to fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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 and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Words of Our Lord

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

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.

Distribution Hymns

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

sts. 1–5



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
 5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
 mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.
 tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.

Text (sts. 1, 3-5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt. Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561
 Text (sts. 1, 3-5): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004549 Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt. Tune: German, 14th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

377 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 sing, All for to see the new - born King.
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

Text and tune: English Text and tune: Public domain

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, Flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it, Foun-tain-head of love di-vine:



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain Call us to re-joice in Thee.
 Joy-ful, we Thy heav'n in-her-it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867 Text and tune: Public domain

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.

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice



- 1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav-en,
 2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad-ness,
 3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won-der?
 4 Christ, our Lord and Sav-ior dear, Be Thou ev-er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re-joice, His own Son hath giv-en.
 That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad-ness.
 There-fore praise God ev-er-more Here on earth and yon-der.
 Grant us now a glad new year. A-men, Je-sus, hear us.

Text: German, 17th cent.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Ander Theil Des Dreszdenischen GesangBuchs, 1632, Dresden Text and tune: Public domain

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