



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

December 31, 2020

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
New Year's Eve Communion Service

December 31, 2020

6:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB #785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

So teach us to number our days.
Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

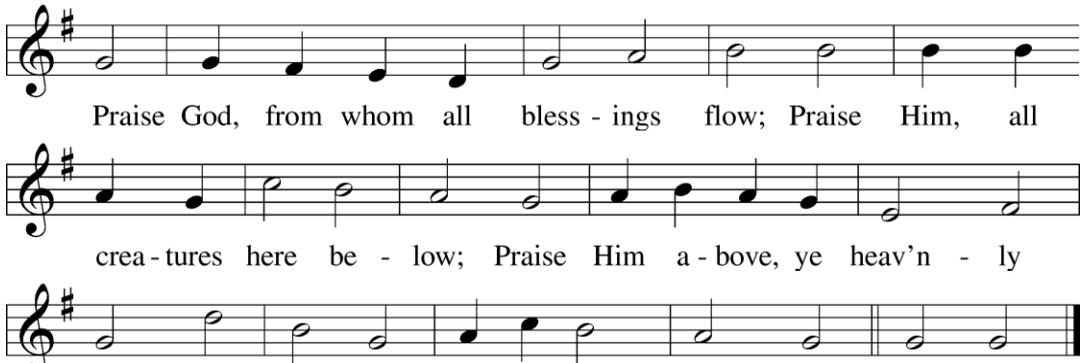
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow"

LSB #805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal Father, You have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives You bless us with Your love. Grant that in this new year we may know Your presence, see Your love at work, and live in the light of the event which gives us joy forever – the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 30:15-18

¹⁵For 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, ¹⁶and 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.

¹⁷A 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.

¹⁸Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you,
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.
For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:31b-39

³¹If 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:35-40

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LSB #733



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,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 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

"Help from the Hills"

Psalm 121

Rev. Clifford Hellmers, Pastor Emeritus

PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN

"I Come, O Savior to Thy Table"

LSB #618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF OUR LORD

COMMUNION HYMN (cont'd)

**3. Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

**4. Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

LSB #364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

COMMUNION HYMN (cont'd)

5. What higher gift can we inherit?

**It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good councils, and all just works do proceed, give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that we, being defended by Thee from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and may almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and keep you always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB #922



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE