

New Year's Eve

for all the WELS churches in the greater Lake City area
31 December 2021 7:30 P.M.

Pre-Worship Pondering:

—Paul Gerhardt

*Now let us come before Him, with song and prayer adore Him,
Who to our life has given all needed strength from heaven.*

*The stream of years is flowing, and we are onward going,
From old to new surviving and by His mercy thriving.*

*Our God His own is shielding and help to them is yielding.
Our work will prosper never unless He bless it ever.*

*Above all else, Lord, send us Your Spirit to attend us,
Within our hearts abiding, to heav'n our footsteps guiding.*

Welcome, everyone! Your presence is an encouragement to others. As you listen to God's Word, may His peace and joy reside in your heart through Jesus' work as your Savior.

Hail Him the Lord of Years

A Service For The Turning Of The Year

Opening Hymn and Worship Dialog

♪♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW147

Gracious God, again has ended of my life another year.
By Your constant care attended, to Your temple I draw near.
Well I know Your grace divine has sustained this life of mine.
Calmly, as the Year now closes, in Your love my soul reposes.

Pastor: *Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.*

Congregation: You are the Lord of years, the Lord of eternity.

P: A thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

C: So teach us to number our days aright, that we may use them wisely.

♪♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW147

Lord of years, I come before You with a fervent, heartfelt plea;
though unworthy, I implore You: Lord, be merciful to me!
Let Your face upon me shine as the fleeting years decline.
Help me do Your will and pleasure day by day, in fuller measure.

P: Jesus said about Himself: “The Spirit of the Lord has anointed Me to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

C: The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations.

P: You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God for the Day of redemption.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

♪♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW147

Year by year, O Lord, direct me on the paths of righteousness,
with Your mighty love protect me. Lift Your shining face to bless.
Let each passing year declare Your unfailing, shelt’ring care
till in heav’n I bow before You and eternally adore You.

Prayer of the Day

P: Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on 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;

C: we ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Deuteronomy 32:1-4,6b-7

¹Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. ²Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. ³I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! ⁴He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. ⁶...Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you? ⁷Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.

P: Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy.

C: Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. [Psalm 5:11]

♪♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW501

In peace, Lord, at Your Word, now let Your servant go;
for I have seen and heard what all the earth must know:
Salvation for the world is here!
And Israel's Light shines bright and clear
upon the nations far and near.

Epistle Lesson

2 Peter 3:3b-9, 17-18

³In the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's Word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷By the same Word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like

a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁷Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

P: You have heard the Word of the Lord.

C (speaks): Thanks be to God!

♪♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW501

Eternal praise and fame be to our God alone!

We proudly bear His name, proclaim what He has done.

For our redemption, full and free,

to Father, Son, and Spirit be

all praise and thanks eternally!

Gospel

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶[Jesus] went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.””

P: You have heard the Gospel of the Lord.

C (speaks): Praise be to Christ!

Devotion

At specific points during the devotion, we will sing these four stanzas of "Crown Him With Many Crowns."

Tune: CW341

1. Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
Glossed in a sea of light where everlasting waves
reflect His form—the Infinite! who lives & loves & saves.
2. Crown Him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,
whose arms those crimson trophies won
which now His brow adorn.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For You have died for me;
Your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.
3. Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
4. Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as your matchless King through all eternity.

We Give a Thank Offering

We worship the Lord with an offering from the wealth He has given us. Offerings labeled for a particular area church will be forwarded to that church. Loose cash offerings will be forwarded to WELS missions—to help with the gospel ministry that we do with all our other sister churches in the WELS.

Prayers of the Church

P: As one year draws to a close and another opens before us, let us address our heavenly Father with grateful prayers. In the name of Jesus Christ we are bold to say, Hear us, O Lord of years.

♪♪ C: O Lord of years, in mercy bend Tune: CW597
and to our **time-bound** needs attend.
Our prayers we offer in His name
who constantly remains the same.

P: Grateful for creation, the gift of Your hand, and for history, the proof of Your presence—especially for the entrance of Your divine Son Jesus Christ into our world of time, as well as for the year which is speeding to a close, we offer our thanks at this turning of the year for all Your blessings of the past, recorded in our history. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who died for us at a recorded time—“under Pontius Pilate”—we thank You for forgiving our sins. Let each sin be buried in the past and rise no more to trouble our conscience or tempt us again. Hear us, O Lord of years.

♪♪ C: For **yesterday** our hearts we raise Tune: CW597
in songs of gratitude and praise.
Our thanks we offer in His name
who constantly remains the same.

P: Grateful for the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives as time unfolds before us, and conscious of our present needs here in time, we offer our thanks at this turning of the year for all Your blessing constantly bestowed on us—mercy as fresh as the dawning of each day. Aware of the needs and opportunities which surround us, we ask for the wisdom and strength to live each day as a precious gift of God, and to spend our days as opportunities to share your everlasting love. Hear us, O Lord of years.

♪♪ C: Our faithful tribute let us pay Tune: CW597
while still the time is called “**today**.”
Our love we offer in His name
who constantly remains the same.

P: Grateful for the sure hope that has been given us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at a recorded time—“on the third day”—we look forward to Your gift of everlasting life, to the mansions prepared for us and the welcome that awaits us. Keep us faithful, day by day, year by year, attentive to Your Word and trusting in Your promises, until our days and years have reached their end. Receive our thanks for gifts that are beyond our years—eternal, evermore. Hear us, O Lord of years.

♪ C: **Tomorrow** comes, and it shall be
the dawning of eternity!
Our praise we offer in His name
who constantly remains the same.

Tune: CW597

Our 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.

Confession and Absolution

adapted from pages 47 and 48 of The Lutheran Hymnal.

Dearly loved brothers and sisters in Christ,
Since we intend to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord
Jesus Christ, it's appropriate to examine ourselves diligently,
as the apostle Paul urges us. You see, this holy Sacrament has

been instituted to strengthen and give special comfort to those who humbly confess their sins, and thus hunger and thirst for God's righteousness.

When we examine ourselves in this way, we find nothing in us by nature except sin and its result death. And there's no way we can set ourselves free. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. He showed His mercy by taking to Himself a human body and soul so that He might, on the one hand, fulfill for us the whole will and law of God, and on the other hand, deliver us from the death and punishment we deserve by suffering it in our place.

But He wants us to believe this more confidently and to be strengthened in faith to obey His will more cheerfully. And so He instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in which He feeds us with His body and blood. Therefore, all who eat this bread and drink from this cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, dwell in Christ and Christ in them, and they have eternal life.

As we receive the Supper, let us do so in remembrance of Him, which means we remember that Jesus was delivered over to death because of our sins and was raised to life because we had been justified (declared not-guilty). In turn let's give Him our deepest thanks, take up our cross and follow Him, and, as He commanded, love each other just as He has loved us. We are all one body, since we all partake of the one Savior.

So now I ask you before God, who searches our inmost thoughts:

1. Do you confess that you have sinned against God and therefore deserve His anger and punishment? If so, then say: I do so confess.

It is appropriate that we confess, because the Holy Scriptures declare, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

2. Do you repent of all your sins committed in thought, word and deed? If so, then say: I do repent.

It is appropriate that we repent, as did the penitent sinners in the Bible: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son and many others.

3. Do you believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives all your sins? If so, then say, I do believe.

It is appropriate that we believe since the Holy Scriptures declare: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

4. Do you promise that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you will from this time forward change your life and seek to restore whatever you have damaged? If so then say, I do promise.

It is appropriate that we promise, because Christ the Lord says: "Let your light shine before people that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

5. Finally, do you believe that the Lord has given all us Christians the authority to forgive sins, and that when we come together as the Church and call one of us to pronounce God's forgiveness over the rest, that your sins are fully forgiven before God in heaven? If so then say, I do believe.

As you believe, so may it also be unto you.

I have heard your confession of sins and profession of faith. By virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, I remind you all of the grace of God, and, in the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: O Lord Jesus, we are about to commemorate Your death for us as we celebrate the Sacrament of Your Holy Supper.

♪♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW312

Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
this feast for our salvation.
It is Your body and Your blood,
and at Your invitation
as weary souls, with sin oppressed,
we come to You for needed rest,
for comfort, and for pardon.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, and said, "Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

♪♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW312

We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
that Your true body and Your blood
our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true,
and there is naught You cannot do,
for You, Lord, are almighty.

P: Bless us through this sacred meal, Lord, that as we receive the bread and wine, and with them Your very body and blood, You may give each communicant the personal reassurance of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Strengthen us through this heavenly food that we might live for You. Amen.

♪ Congregation sings:

Tune: CW312

Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord our Savior,
and, truly grieving for our sins,
may prove by our behavior
that we are thankful for Your grace
and day by day may run our race,
in holiness increasing.

Distribution

Distribution Hymns #70 (for New Year's Eve) & #64 (for Christmas)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Mighty Savior Jesus, You have promised to forgive our sins, and in the meal we have received, You have given us exactly that—the very forgiveness of sins. But what amazes our minds is that You conveyed Your vast and glorious forgiveness to us through lowly earthly elements, which You have assured us are also Your body and blood when in the Sacrament.

Use this forgiveness, Lord, to motivate all kinds of loving thoughts, words and actions so that we may obey Your greatest commandments: to love You most and love others as we love ourselves. While this will be a challenging task, we can do all things through You who strengthens us. Strengthen us, therefore, Lord. We pray in Your name, O Jesus, because You are alive and You hold the place of honor at Your Father's right hand, with whom You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and grant you His ✠ peace.

C: Amen.

✠ Having spent an hour with your Lord at the end
of the old year, go forth into the new year
confident in the Father's love,
joyful in forgiveness,
content in the peace of Christ,
certain in the hope of eternal life,
and zealous in the Holy Spirit.

Acknowledgements

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