



Messiah
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
Church of the Lutheran Confession

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December 31, 2020

New Year's Eve

There is a Time for Everything...This is the Time!

All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with You.

(Ps. 139:16-18)

Psalm 90:1-12

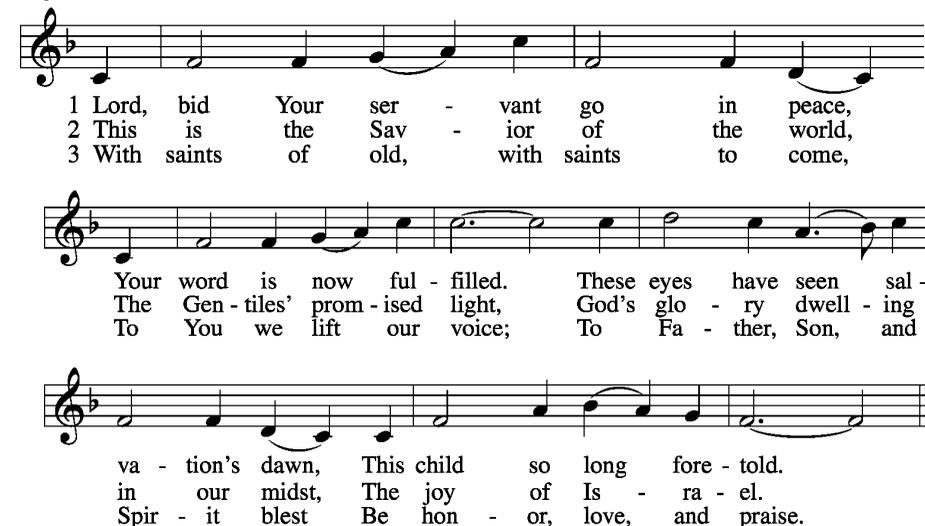
Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

Cong: **You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

Pastor: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Cong: **For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

Hymn: Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
3 With saints of old, with saints to come,

Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

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Prayer

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the year now past, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The year is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the new year and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

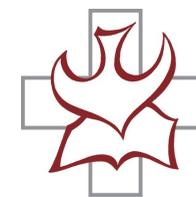
C: Amen.

P: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping

C: that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.



Closing Hymn: *O Rejoice, Ye Christians Loudly*



1 O re - joice, ye Chris - tians, loud - ly, For our joy has
2 See, my soul, thy Sav - ior choos - es Weak - ness here and
3 Lord, how shall I thank Thee right - ly? I ac - knowl - edge
4 Je - sus, guard and guide Thy mem - bers, Fill them with Thy



now be - gun; Won - drous things our God has done.
pov - er - ty; In such love He comes to thee.
that by Thee I am saved e - ter - nal - ly.
bound - less grace, Hear their prayers in ev - 'ry place.



Tell a - broad His good - ness proud - ly, Who our race has
Nei - ther crib nor cross re - fus - es; All He suf - fers
Let me not for - get it light - ly, But to Thee at
Fan to flame faith's glow - ing em - bers; Grant all Chris - tians,



hon - ored thus, That He deigns to dwell with us.
for thy good To re - deem thee by His blood.
all times cleave And my heart true peace re - ceive.
far and near, Ho - ly peace, a glad new year!



Refrain
Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness, Christ has done a -



way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,



For the Sun of Grace is shin - ing!

All the days

ordained for me

were written

in your book before

one of them

came to be (Ps. 139:16)

Communion hymn: *The Infant Priest Was Holy Born*



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who
 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the
 rail on bend - ed knee Our hun - gry mouths from



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.
 Him re - ceive The bread of im - mor - tal - i - ty.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
 A priestly food and priestly meat;
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
 His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim
 Our voices join the endless hymn,
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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The Distribution:

Pastor: For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The 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.

Cong: **Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn: *Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
 4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
 For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
 When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.



5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
 Under all the mighty heav'n
 Whereby those to sin enslaved
 Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
 Human name of God above;
 Pleading only this, we flee
 Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Confession Faith:

(Augsburg Confession: Article III)

I believe that the Word--that is, the Son of God--took on man's nature in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary. So there are two natures, divine and human, inseparably conjoined in the unity of His person, one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, that He might reconcile the Father to us and be a sacrifice not only for original guilt but also for all actual sins of men. He also descended into hell, and on the third day truly rose again. Afterward He ascended into heaven to sit on the right hand of the Father, forever reign and have dominion over all creatures, and sanctify those who believe in Him by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and quicken them and defend them against the devil and the power of sin. The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead. Amen.

I. This is the time to thank God for His grace in the past.

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

P: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Prayer:

P: Lord, this past year is a sad commentary on us and our world. We have fallen far short of Your glory. Along with all people, we have sinned against Your holy will.

C: "Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD" (Ps. 25:6-7).

III. This is the time to prepare for eternity.

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:14

P: I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

Prayer:

P: Lord, in the days ahead show us what You would have us do. Fill our lives with purpose. May we reflect Your love to all around us. Give us opportunities to tell of Your love, that many others may follow You in faith through the years of this life to the eternal home You have prepared in heaven.

C: "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands" (Ps. 90:17).

Lord's Prayer

Confession of Sins:

P: God of the Ages:

C: We earnestly desire Your presence among us on the threshold of this new year. Yet, our sins would prevent us from entering Your presence and approaching Your throne. We therefore confess before You our sinful nature, as well as the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of Jesus Christ who gave His body and shed His blood for us all, forgive us, dear Father, and strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit to press on until we see You in glory. Amen.

P: The God of the Ages has sent His only-begotten Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as we begin this new year, I gladly announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Words of Institution

Christ's Resolutions Are Your Solution

- I. He resolved to keep His Father's laws.
 - II. He resolved to pay the world's debt.
 - III. He resolved to end His people's weariness.
- (Guest speaker: Seminary student Drew Naumann)

Hymn: The Ancient Law Departs

1 The an - cient Law de - parts, And all its fears re - move,
 2 The Light of Light di - vine, True bright - ness un - de - filed,
 3 His in - fant bod - y now Be - gins the cross to feel;
 4 To - day the name is Thine At which we bend the knee.
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, For Thy re - deem - ing love,

For Je - sus makes with faith - ful hearts A cov - e - nant of love.
 He bears for us the pain of sin, A ho - ly, spot-less child.
 Those pre - cious drops of blood that flow For death the vic - tim seal.
 They call Thee Je - sus, child di - vine; Our Je - sus deign to be.
 With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one In glo - rious might a - bove.

C. M.

Ps. 90
Isaac Watts, 1719, ab.

St. Anne
William Craft, 1708

1 Our 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. **A - men.**

5 Thy word commands our flesh to dust:
 "Return, ye sons of men!"
 All nations rose from earth at first
 And turn to earth again.

6 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Bears all its sons away;
 They fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the opening day.

7 Like flowery fields the nations stand,
 Pleased with the morning light;
 The flowers beneath the mower's hand
 Lie withering ere 'tis night.

8 Our God, our Help in ages past,
 Our Hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our Guard while troubles last
 And our eternal Home!

II. This is the Time to treasure the present.

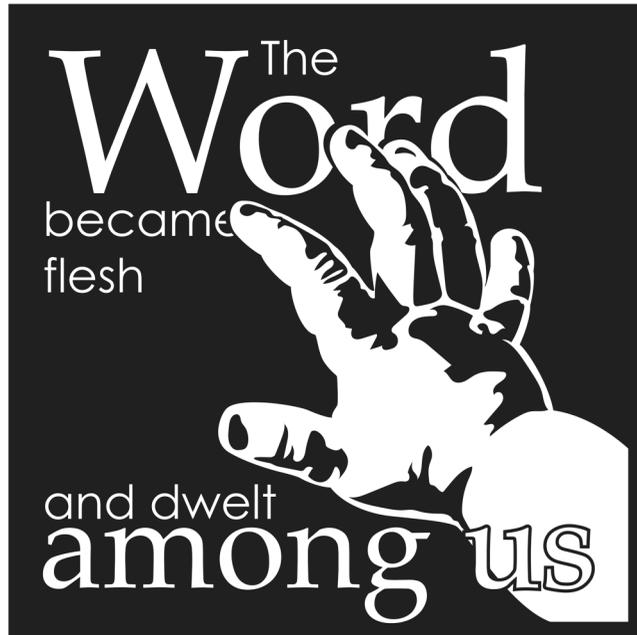
Text: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

P: What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil--this is the gift of God.

Prayer:

P: Lord, no matter what comes in the year ahead, whether trials or joys, routine days or memorable times, we know that all is well, for Jesus is our Savior who has given us His righteousness and taken away our guilt by His sacrifice on the cross.

C: "I trust in you, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me" (Ps. 31:14-15).



Hymn: *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

1 Je - sus, Ref-uge of the wea-ry, Blest Re-deem-er, whom we love,
2 Do we pass that cross un-heed-ing, Breath-ing no re-pen-tant vow,
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn-ing With more fer-vent love for Thee!

Foun-tain in life's des-ert drear-y, Sav-ior from the world a-bove,
Tho' we see Thee wound-ed, bleed-ing, See Thy thorn-en-cir-cled brow?
May our eyes be ev-er turn-ing To Thy cross of ag-o-ny

Oh, how oft Thine eyes, of-fend-ed, Gaze up-on the sin-ner's fall!
Yet Thy sin-less death hath bro't us Life e-ter-nal, peace, and rest;
Till in glo-ry, part-ed nev-er From the bless-ed Sav-ior's side,

Yet, up-on the cross ex-tend-ed, Thou didst bear the pain of all.
On-ly what Thy grace hath taught us Calms the sinner's stormy breast.
Grav-en in our hearts for-ev-er, Dwell the cross, the Cru-ci-fied! A-men.