

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
December 31, 2023**

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. Because God is for us, we have an answer to our fears and live out our days in confidence that we are more than conquerors through Christ, our Lord.



WELCOME

HYMN No. 796 "When in Our Music God is Glorified"

When in our music God is glorified
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue: Alleluia

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
When utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight: Alleluia

Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia

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: Merciful Father, time is a precious gift You have bestowed on us to grow in our relationship with You and one another.

C: Yet, we admit we have not always used this gift in God-pleasing ways. At times we have squandered and abused Your gift of time and even used Your gift for evil purposes and not for good.

P: "Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from all our sin. For we know our transgressions and our sin is always before us...

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12).

Pastor pronounces the Forgiveness of sins

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, Almighty God has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our 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 He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

SHARING THE PEACE

RESPONSE TO THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS “Your Grace Still Amazes Me”
Rev. Matthew Schultz, David Kempton & Pastor Vern

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Halle Elizabeth Harris, Emmett Reid Harris and Lewis Matthew Husemann.

Sponsors: For Emmett -Tate and Hannah Husemann

For Halle - Alison Berens & Dirk Husemann

For Lewis – Matthew Lloyd

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES’ CREED *stand*

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 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 150
(Let Everything Praise the LORD)

Praise the LORD!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
 praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound;
 praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
 praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding cymbals;
 praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PRAISE “I’m Gonna Sing” BSLC Vocal Band
“Loving God, Loving Each Other”

EPISTLE *Romans 8:31b–39*
(Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.)

If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who 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. 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.”

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Psalm 103:17a*

P: Alleluia. The steadfast love of the LORD
C: is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him. Alleluia.

ANTHEM "What the Lord Has Done in Me" Adult Choir
"Crown Him Lord of All" Directed by Marty Lintvedt

GOSPEL Luke 12:35b–40 (You Must Be Ready)

P: The Gospel of St. Luke the twelfth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus said,) "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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON "Our Highest Calling is to Worship God!" Pastor Vern

1. Worship is our response to what God has done in Christ!
2. Worship is living out our vocation in Christ!
3. Worship in heaven will be glorious and eternal!

OFFERTORY "Scherzo" – Fredrick Chopin
Pr. Y. Eric Ishimaru, Christ the King Lutheran Church (AALC), Waseca, MN

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 abroad and especially to this beloved congregation, 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 over the past 30 years, 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 people. 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 those who fill our Prayer List and for those whose names You have laid on our hearts in this moment... Pastor Mark and Lana Hawkinson who were injured in a car accident; Jayni Lintvedt, recovering from flu and c-section delivery. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, Your mercies are new every morning, yet we thank You today for blessing Ed Brandmeyer, Charla Morton, Natalie Bartimus, Terry Colvin, and Matthew Bowman with another year of Your life-sustaining grace...

As these birthdays open to another year in Your care, we pray that You would let every test and adversity of life be for them another opportunity to grow stronger in spirit, and more affirmed of Your grace to work all things for their good that they may return to Your house of worship regularly to give You thanks for Your providential care and love all year around. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, creator of all that exists, we thank You for the birth of **(name)** born to **Erik & Jayni Lintvedt** this past Wednesday. As You have added him to the human family, so also unite him to Your holy Church through the waters of Holy Baptism just as You have added Halle, Emmett and Lewis this morning. By the gracious working of Your Holy Spirit, help them to grow in Your nurture and admonition that they may bring glory to You and serve others in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

P: O God of grace and mercy, in Christ, the light of the world, You have shined Your light into the darkness of our sin. Grant us Your Spirit that we not surrender to fear or despair but live in hope the days You give us, and, kept by Your mercy, receive us into Your arms, where we shall rest until the day of resurrection, when in glorious flesh we shall behold You face-to-face and dwell in Your presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught and enables us to pray saying;

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

All: 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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26*

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD smile upon you and ☩ give you peace. C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG "Jude Doxology" Lintvedt Family Band

1. **And now all glory to him who alone is God
Who saves us through his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
For he is able to keep us from falling away
He brings us into His presence with love & joy.**

Refrain:

**All power, authority, All splendor & majesty
Are His from the beginning & evermore, & evermore.**

2. **And now all glory to You, You alone are God
You've saved us through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
For You are able to keep us from falling away
You bring us into Your presence with love & joy (Refrain)**

Bridge:

**All glory & honor, All power & dominion
Belong to the lamb who is seated on the throne
Forevermore, forevermore, forevermore, forevermore. (Refrain: 2x)**

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!