



... while you are
waiting
for these things,
strive to be found
by him at
peace...

2 PETER 3:14, NRSV

NEW YEARS EVE

Luther Memorial Church December 31, 2024

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
134 21st Street • Fond du Lac, Wisconsin • fdllutheran.com



Worship. 6:30pm

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NEW YEARS EVE

December 31, 2024

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 39 (Inserted); **PRAYERS: 52** (Pg. 107); **53** (Pg. 107).

HYMNS: 110 120 416 123

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 110 *"Across the Sky the Shades of Night"*

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement Pg. 22)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Congregation: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence, we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: 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.

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 90

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world,

Congregation: from eternity to eternity you are God.

P: You grind people to dust,

C: and you say, "Return, children of Adam."

P: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day,

C: like yesterday that has gone by, or like a watch in the night.

P: You sweep them away like a flood.

C: They are like sleep in the morning, like grass which changes quickly.

P: In the morning it sprouts and grows.

C: By evening it is cut down, and it withers.

P: Surely, we are consumed by your anger, and by your wrath we are terrified.

C: You have laid out our guilty deeds in front of you. Our hidden sins are revealed in the light of your face.

P: For all our days pass away under your fury.

C: We finish our years like a sigh.

P: The days of our lives add up to seventy years, or eighty years if we are strong.

C: Yet the best of them are trouble and sorrow, for they disappear quickly, and we fly away.

P: Who can understand the power of your anger?

C: But your fury is consistent with the fear that is owed to you.

P: Teach us to number our days in such a way

C: that we bring a heart of wisdom.

P: Turn, O Lord! How long!

C: Change your mind toward your servants.

P: Satisfy us in the morning with your mercy, so that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

C: Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

P: Let your deeds be seen by your servants

C: and your majesty by their children.

P: May the kindness of the Lord our God rest upon us.

C: Establish the work of our hands for us. Yes, establish the work of our hands. **

EPISTLE LESSON:

1 JOHN 2:7-17

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one that you have had since the beginning. The old command is the message you heard. ⁸At the same time, the command I am writing is new—it is true in Jesus and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and nothing causes him to stumble. ¹¹The one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹²I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven because of his name.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the Evil One.

¹⁴I have written to you, little children, because you have known the Father.

I have written to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the Evil One.

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, boasting about material possessions—is not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever. **

GOSPEL LESSON:

MATTHEW 11:20-30

²⁰Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles were performed, because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles which were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. ²³You, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will go down to hell. For if the miracles performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I tell you that it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

²⁵At that time, Jesus continued, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. ²⁷Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” **

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

THE APOSTLES CREED

HYMN: 120 *“Help Us, O Lord! Behold, We Enter”*

THE SERMON:

2 PETER 3:8-9

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

ARE WE THERE YET?

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, there are offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary. As our gifts are brought forward to His Altar, we sing His Praise.

PRAYER(S) /THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 416 *"Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways"*

THE EXHORTATION

Pastor:

Since we intend to come to the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul encourages us (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For this Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins and hunger and thirst after righteousness.

But if we honestly examine ourselves, we will find nothing in us but sin and guilt, from which we cannot set ourselves free.

Because of this, our Lord Jesus Christ had mercy upon us and has taken upon Himself our human nature, so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and Law of God and for us and for our deliverance suffer death, the death we have by our sins deserved. So that we should more confidently believe this and be strengthened in our faith to cheerfully obey His Holy will, He has instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, in which He feeds us with His Body and gives us to drink of His blood.

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup firmly believing the words of Christ, dwells in Christ, and Christ in him, and has eternal life.

We should also do this to remember Him, proclaiming His death, that He was delivered up for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Therefore, giving him thanks for the same, let us take up our cross and follow Him, and, according to His commandment, love one another even as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink of this one cup.

So, I ask you before God, is this your sincere confession, that you from the heart repent of your sins, believe on Jesus Christ, and sincerely desire, with the assistance of God the Holy Spirit, to turn from sins, then declare it by saying, "I Do."

All: "I Do."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

In the same way He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

THE DISTRIBUTION



The Lord's Supper is described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 as a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicines, of course, it must be used at the right time for the right purpose by the right person, lest it do more harm than good.

We ask all visitors to speak to the pastor before taking the sacrament, especially if you have not communed here before. The Lord's Supper will be received standing or seated in the pews. You are asked to dispose of the empties in one of the disposals near the front of the sanctuary.

THE BENEDICTION: (Pastor) **CONGREGATION:** "Amen."

CLOSING HYMN: 123 *"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in Jesus' name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us this morning, and hope that you will return and join us again. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with the pastor or with an usher on the way out.

**** Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)
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Psalm 39

(EHV)

¹I said, "I will guard my ways so that I do not sin with my tongue. I will keep a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are confronting me." ²I said nothing. I kept silent. I did not even say anything good, but my pain became worse. ³Inside me my heart grew hot. As I fretted, the fire burned. So I spoke with my tongue.

⁴Lord, help me understand my end. What is the limit of my days? Let me know how fleeting I am. ⁵See, you have cut short my days. My brief time before you is like nothing. Indeed, every person, even at his best, is just a puff of air.

⁶A man flickers like a mirage. He really has no more effect than a breeze. He piles things up, never knowing who will get them.

⁷But now what do I wait for, Lord? My hope is in you. ⁸Save me from all my rebellious acts. Do not let fools scorn me. ⁹I said nothing. I did not open my mouth, because you are the one who caused this. ¹⁰Stop punching me. By the attack of your hand I am finished. ¹¹By your rebuke against guilt you discipline a man. Like a moth you consume what he desires. Indeed, every person is nothing but a puff of air.

¹²Hear my prayer, O Lord. Listen to my cry. Do not ignore my tears, for with you I am an alien, just a visitor, as were all my ancestors. ¹³Look away from me, so I can smile again before I depart and am no more.

BLESS US
in this new year, Lord.



My future is in
**YOUR
HANDS.**
PSALM 31:15, NLT

HYMN SHEET

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

FOR PENITENCE

Merciful Father, grant us grace that we may never purposely sin, but if at any time we sin against you may we truly repent and sorrow over our sin and by a living faith in Christ obtain forgiveness of sins, solely through the virtues of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR PARDON

Hear, we pray, O Lord, the prayer of those who confess their sins to You and who trust in Your Son that they may find in Him pardon and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

ACROSS THE SKY THE SHADES OF NIGHT

1. Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting. We deck Thine altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting; And as the year's last hours go by, We raise to Thee our earnest cry, Once more Thy love entreating.

2. Before the cross subdued we bow, To Thee our prayers addressing, Recounting all Thy mercies now, And all our sins confessing; Beseeching Thee this coming year To keep us in Thy faith and fear And crown us with Thy blessing.

3. And while we pray, we lift our eyes To dear ones gone before us, Safe home with Thee in Paradise, Whose peace descendeth o'er us; And beg of Thee, when life is past, To reunite us all at last With those who've gone before us.

4. We gather up in this brief hour The memory of Thy mercies: Thy wondrous goodness, love, and power Our grateful song rehearses; For Thou hast been our Strength and Stay In many a dark and dreary day Of sorrow and reverses.

5. In many an hour when fear and dread, Like evil spells, have bound us And clouds were gathering overhead, Thy providence hath found us. In many a night when seas ran high, Thy gracious presence, drawing nigh, Hath made all calm around us.

6. Then, O great God, in years to come, Whatever may betide us, Right onward through our journey home Be Thou at hand to guide us; Nor leave us till at close of life Safe from all perils, toil, and strife, Heaven shall enfold and hide us.

HYMN

HELP US, O LORD! BEHOLD, WE ENTER

1. Help us, O Lord! Behold, we enter Upon another year today; In Thee our hopes and thoughts now center, Renew our courage for the way. New life, new strength, new happiness, We ask of Thee, -- oh, hear and bless!

2. May every plan and undertaking This year be all begun with Thee; When I am sleeping or am waking, Still let me know Thou art with me. Abroad do Thou my footsteps guide, At home be ever at my side.

3. Be this a time of grace and pardon. Thy rod I take with willing mind, But suffer naught my heart to harden; Oh, let me then Thy mercy find! In Thee alone, my God, I live; Thou only canst my sins forgive.

4. And may this year to me be holy; Thy grace so fill my every thought That all my life be pure and lowly And truthful, as a Christian's ought. So make me while yet dwelling here Pious and blest from year to year.

5. Jesus, be with me and direct me; Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire; Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me; Jesus, be all my heart's Desire; Jesus, be in my thoughts all day Nor suffer me to fall away.

6. And grant, Lord, when the year is over, That it for me in peace may close; In all things care for me and cover My head in time of fear and woes. So may I when my years are gone Appear with joy before Thy throne.

HYMN

OH, THAT THE LORD WOULD GUIDE MY WAYS

1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still! Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!

2. Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere; Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep; And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wandering sheep.

4. Make me to walk in Thy commands,-- 'Tis a delightful road,-- Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.

HYMN

OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

1. Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home!
2. Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone, Short as
the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
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! Amen.