



THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES

New Year's Eve

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church | York, NE

December 31, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything, please ask one of our ushers.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mr. Quinton Corwin

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THE COMMON SERVICE

"The Common Service" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. It became the service commonly used by English-speaking Lutherans in America. It is also in CW pg. 15.

OPENING HYMN

Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter | 70

- 1 Help us, O Lord, for now we enter Upon another year today.
In you our hopes and thoughts now center; Renew our courage for the way.
New life, new strength, new happiness We ask of you—oh, hear and bless.
- 2 May ev'ry plan and undertaking Begin this year, O Lord, with you;
When I am sleeping or am waking, Help me, dear Lord, your will to do.
In you alone, my God, I live; You only can my sins forgive.
- 3 And may this year to me be holy; Your grace so fill my ev'ry thought
That all my life be pure and lowly And truthful, as a Christian's ought.
So make me while I'm living here Your faithful servant through the year.
- 4 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 And never let me fall away.
- 5 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 life is done, Appear with joy before your throne.

INVOCATION AND RESPONSES

M In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **AMEN.**

M Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

C **Before the mountains were born, or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.** (Ps.90:1)

M Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,

C **And a thousand years are like a day.** (2 Peter 3:8)

M Do not let your hearts be troubled.
C **Trust in God; trust also in me.** (John 14:1)

M You are to give him the name Jesus,
C **Because he will save his people from their sins.** (Mt.1:21)

M As far as the east is from the west,
C **So far has he removed our transgressions from us.** (Psalm 103:12)

M From everlasting to everlasting, the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
C **And his righteousness with their children's children.** (Psalm 103:17)

M Teach us to number our days aright,
C **That we may gain a heart of wisdom.** (Ps. 90:12)

M The grass withers and the flowers fall,
C **But the word of our God stands forever.** (Isaiah 40:8)

CONFESSION

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION

- M** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



- M** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M] The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

[M] Let us pray.

Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think seriously about the brevity of our lives and 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The Word

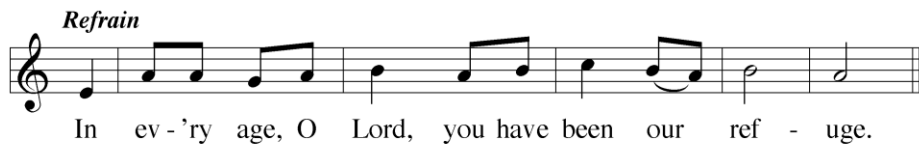
FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you people who pursue righteousness,
you people who seek the LORD!
Look confidently to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were cut.
²Look confidently to Abraham your father,
and to Sarah, who gave birth to you.
Yes, when I called him, Abraham was only one person,
but I blessed him and multiplied him.
³The LORD is certain to comfort Zion.
He will comfort all her ruins.
Certainly he will make her wilderness like Eden
and her wasteland like the garden of the LORD.
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.
⁴Pay attention to me, O my people.
My nation, listen to me!
For the law will go out from me,
and I will establish my justice as a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness is near.
My salvation goes forth,
and my arms will bring justice to the peoples.
The seacoasts will wait for me.
They will have confidence in my arm.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens.
Look closely at the earth beneath,
because the heavens will vanish like smoke,
and the earth will wear out like a garment,
and its inhabitants will die like gnats.
But my salvation will remain forever,
and my righteousness will never be abolished. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**



Lord, you have been our dwelling place*
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day
that has just gone by,*
or like a watch in the night.

Refrain

You have set our iniquities before you,*
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

You turn mortals back to dust.*
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—
or eighty, if we have the strength;*
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright,*
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Refrain

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,*
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 1:22-25

²²Since you have purified your souls by obeying the truth, resulting in sincere brotherly love, love one another constantly from a pure heart. ²³For you have been born again, not from perishable seed but from imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For:

All flesh is like grass,
and all its glory is like a flower of the field.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
²⁵but the word of the Lord endures forever.
And this is the word that was preached to you. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

Psalm 91:2

M Alleluia. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Alleluia.



please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to Luke chapter 13.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

⁶He told them this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?' ⁸But the gardener replied to him, 'Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. ⁹If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.'" (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

**He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, Our Help in Ages Past | **441**

- 1 O 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 your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising 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,
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

²Remember the whole journey on which the LORD your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you and to test you, in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. ³So he humbled you and allowed you to be hungry. Then he fed you manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known before, in order to teach you that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

CREATE IN ME

please stand, if able

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

be seated

OFFERING

Please leave your offering in the plate in the entry, or make use of online options for giving.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O Heavenly Father, God from everlasting to everlasting, the one and only true God, we thank you for the innumerable blessings you have given us during this year now drawing to its close. We are truly unworthy of your favor and have often repaid your goodness with ingratitude by abusing your gifts and transgressing your commandments.

C **You would have been just if you had withdrawn your mercy from us.**

M But you are a gracious God, full of compassion, patience and mercy; sparing us when we deserve punishment, and in the midst of judgment remembering mercy. You have, for the sake of Jesus, cast all our sins behind you and healed all our diseases. You have delivered us from many perils and upheld us in all our troubles. You have established peace within our borders and continued to give us your Word and sacraments. Having received your bountiful blessings, we have more than we need to keep our body and life.

C **You alone have given us all that we have.**

M O God, the passing years remind us of our frailty. We are dust and ashes. Our years pass away like a shadow, like a vapor which appears for a time and then vanishes. Amid the many changes and troubles of this perishing world, you alone abide forever. You are our dwelling place in all generations, our refuge and strength, our very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. We praise you with our whole heart as we gather with your saints, our brothers and sisters in the faith.

C **Accept our praise, O God, and show us your salvation through all eternity. Amen**

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.**

The Sacrament

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Co 11:28-29 (NIV1984)

Children who come forward with their parents will receive a blessing

[M] The Lord be with you.



[M] Lift up your hearts.



[M] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



[M] It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of six staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:'. The second staff continues with 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -'. The third staff continues with 'na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fourth staff continues with 'Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who'. The fifth staff continues with 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -'. The sixth staff concludes with 'na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[M] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out 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.

C: A - men.

LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

The Old Year Now Has Passed Away | 71

1 The old year now has passed away; We thank you, O our God, today
That you have kept us through the year When danger and distress were near.

2 We pray you, O eternal Son, Who with the Father reigns as one,
To guard and rule your Christendom Through all the ages yet to come.

3 Take not your saving Word away, Which lights and cheers our souls each day.
Abide with us and keep us free From error and hypocrisy.

4 Oh, help us to forsake all sin, A new and holier life begin!
Forgive the old year's sins, and bless The new year with true happiness,

5 Wherein as Christians we may live Or die in peace that you can give,
To rise again when you will come And enter your eternal home.

6 There shall we thank you and adore With all the angels evermore.
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith To praise your name through life and death.

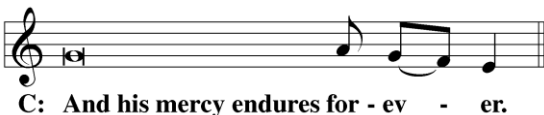
SONG OF SIMEON

please stand, if able



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



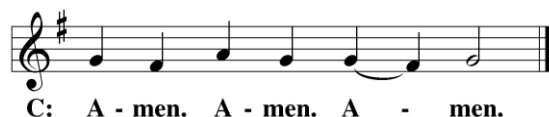
C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

- M** O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever



BLESSING

- M** 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 † give you peace.

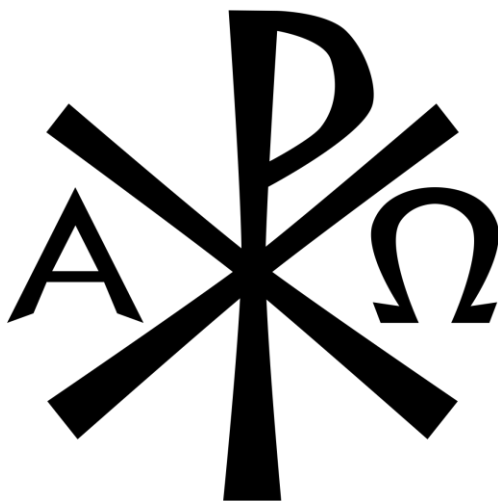


CLOSING HYMN

Father, Let Me Dedicate | 75

- 1 Father, let me dedicate All this year to you,
In whate'er my earthly state, In whate'er I do.
Not from sorrow, pain, or care Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer: Glorify your name.
- 2 Can a child presume to choose Where or how to live?
Can a father's love refuse All the best to give?
More you give me ev'ry day Than the best can claim;
Help me trust you that I may Glorify your name.
- 3 If in mercy you prolong Joys that now are mine,
If on life serene and fair Brighter rays may shine,
Let my glad heart, while it sings, You in all proclaim
And, whate'er the future brings, Glorify your name.

4 If you have for me a cross And its shadow come,
Turning all my gain to loss, Shrouding heart and home,
Let me think how your dear Son To his glory came
And in deepest woe pray on: "Glorify your name."



Communion Procedure

- Elders usher communicants into the center aisle, single file, 6ft. apart
- Communicants approach the Pastor who will be in the center aisle in front of the altar, one by one.
- Communicants receive and eat the bread, then receive and drink the wine from the Pastor who speaks the words "This is Christ's body given for you," "this is Christ's blood shed for you."
- After receiving the bread and wine together with the body and blood, communicants return to their seats, either to the right or left according to the side they came from. Empty cups are placed in the baskets as usual.
- After all have communed, the pastor speaks the words of dismissal and the Nunc Dimittis is sung.

