

A THOUSAND *Years* IN THY SIGHT A Service for the Turning of the Year

Monday, December 31, 2018

ORDER OF SERVICE

BELLS & WELCOME BY PASTOR

Tonight's hymns, prayers, sermon, and Scripture readings celebrate time and the many blessings that time brings by God's gracious hand. As we turn the page on another year of God's grace we acknowledge together in word and song God's gifts of seconds, minutes, hours, days, years, decades, centuries, millennia and...eternity!

A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S GIFT OF TIME

SING: #441:1,3,4 "Our God, Our Help In Ages Past"

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:**

**Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

BENEDICTION AND SENDING INTO THE NEW YEAR

P: Dear Christians, enter the new year in confidence with thanksgiving, for God almighty holds your times in his hands.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #321 "Savior, Again, to Thy Dear Name"

**Savior, again to your dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless you ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.**

**Grant us your peace, Lord, through each coming night;
For us transform the darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;
Your evening presence promise to your own.**

**Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.**

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

TODAY (Dec 31) NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP/HC....6:30 pm

THURSDAY (Jan 3) Teen & 20-something class.....7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY (Jan 6) Sunday School resumes.....8:00 am

WORSHIP - EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.....9:00 am

Church Council Installation in Worship (Adult Bible Study follows)

Take down Christmas decorations after Church (Jan 6, Time TBA)

Newly Elected Leaders Note:

- Church Council Installation—Sun, Jan 6 9:00 am

- Next Council Meeting—Tues, Jan 8 6:30 pm

- Quarterly Voters' Meeting—Tues, Jan 29 6:30 pm



MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE—OSHKOSH, WI. FEB 9,

2019 The 2019 Men of His Word Conference registration is open. Cost: \$25.00 Youth/\$50.00 Adult (Increases to \$30.00 / \$60.00 after Jan.27). **Complete info on counter and poster in the entryway.**

SING: #309 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

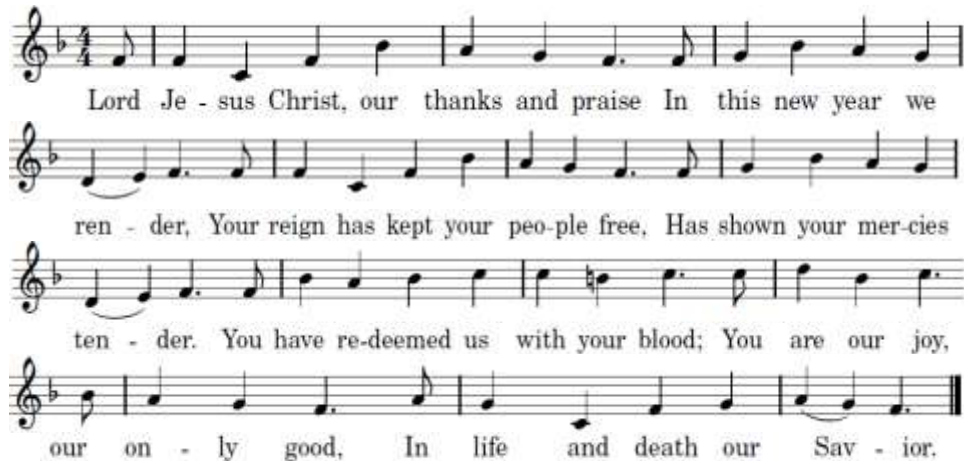
**Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.**

**He that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.**

**Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

THANKSGIVING



Lord Je - sus Christ, our thanks and praise In this new year we
ren - der, Your reign has kept your peo-ple free, Has shown your mer-cies
ten - der. You have re-deemed us with your blood; You are our joy,
our on - ly good, In life and death our Sav - ior.

PRAYER, Spoken by Pastor

Abide with us in the new year, Lord. Abide with us and your whole Christian Church on earth. Abide with us at the break of day and at the end of day. Abide with us at the end of our lives and the end of the world. Abide with us with your grace and goodness, with your holy Word and sacrament, with your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair with death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity. Amen.

REFLECTION ON GOD'S GIFT OF TIME

P: You know what time it is.

C: "*Time to waken from sleep. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.*" ~ Romans 13:11,12

P: Time to "*put aside deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.*" ~ Romans 13:12

C: **We know what time it is.**

P: It is time to seek the Lord.

C: **that he may come and pour out blessings upon us.**

P: "*Therefore be alert and sober minded so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*" ~ 1 Peter 4:7-8

C: **God's love covers over all our sins and everything we've ever thought and done.**

P: "*For when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive full rights as sons.*" ~ Galatians 4:4

C: "*All my times are in your hands, O LORD.*" ~ Psalm 31:15

P: "*I trust in you, O Lord. I say, "You are my God."*" ~ Psalm 31:14

C: "*For a thousand years in your sight are like a day gone by, like a few hours in the night.*" ~ Psalm 90:4

**Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your grace alone,
And our defense is sure.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY, *Spoken by Pastor*

"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 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. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: ECCLESIASTES 3:1-14

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- ² a time to be born and a time to die,
- a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
- a time to tear down and a time to build,
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
- a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
- a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
- a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
- a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. ¹⁴ 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 people will fear him.

SING: *“God, Who Made the Earth.....All Through the Night*
[TUNE: #332]

NEW YEAR'S EVE MESSAGE: "LORD, TEACH US TO COUNT"

Based Psalm 90:12 & Psalm 111:10

*"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,"*

THE OFFERING

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER, *Spoken by Pastor*

O Father in heaven, we know our many sins and failures. You know the deep fears and feelings of our hearts. You are our Savior and our Keeper. Only you can help in every need. Therefore, we desire to come to the Holy Supper, where we receive your forgiveness, your life and your salvation, through your true body and blood. Then we will indeed have peace with you, unafraid of living and unafraid of dying.

THE LORD'S PRAYER, *Spoken together*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION, *Spoken by Pastor*

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 all your sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

SING: #309 *“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”*
(Printed on next page)

God, who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light:

You the day for work have given, for rest the night.

**May your angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet your mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
All through the night.**

**And when morn again shall call us to run life's way,
May we still, whate'er befall us, your will obey.**

**From the pow'r of evil hide us,
In the narrow pathways guide us,
Never be your smile denied us,
All through the day.**

**Guard us waking, guide us sleeping, and, when we die,
May we in your mighty keeping all peaceful lie.**

**When the last dread call shall wake us,
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
With you on high.**

SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-9

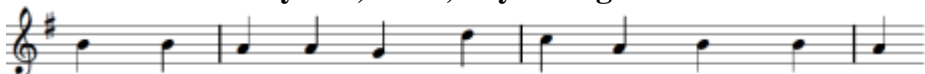
⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

SING: *Alleluia*.....*Tallis' Canon*

[TUNE: #597]



**Al - le - lu - ia! The hours and days, The months, the
In - to this mov - ing tide of time You stepped, O
A thou - sand years, Lord, in your sight Are like the**



**years pro - claim your praise; And cen - tur - ies, mil - len
Christ, with grace sublime; You shared our birth, our flesh,
pas - sing of the night; A cen - tu - ry, when it**



**- ni - a Sound forth your love. Al - le - lu - ia!
our breath; You shared our days, our years, our death.
is gone, Is like the break - ing of the dawn.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 8:25-32

“Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied.²⁶“I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”²⁷They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.²⁸ So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.”²⁹The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

SING



**The child of God in won - der sees The turn - ing
So teach us, Lord, to count our days That we may
“Before the days of A - bra - ham, Be - hold,” O**



**of the cen tur ies. The years, the de - cades—how
live them in your praise, And pray in each mil - len -
Christ, you say, “I am!” That we, whose years so quick -**



**they fly As quick - ly as a pas - sing sigh!
ni - um, O gra - cious Lord, thy king - dom come!
- ly flee, May rise to live e - ter - nal - ly.**

