

St. John's Lutheran Church- Red Bud, Illinois New Year's Eve December 31, 2020

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S! At the end of one year and the beginning of another our God calls us to put our trust in Him for our lives. We gather together to praise the great name of Jesus Christ who is our Savior for every year of our lives.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION THIS EVENING: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. As this sacrament is a sign of our common confession of the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table all those who are confirmed members of congregations of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The cups of white wine in the center of the tray are non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this option.

"A Service of Praise at the Changing of the Year"

THE PRELUDE: AND THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to joyful worship.

OPENING HYMN: 370 "What Child Is This"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

(please stand if you are able)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: (selections from Psalm 90)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place

C: throughout all generations.

P: Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world,

C: from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

P: You turn men back to dust,

C: saying, “Return to dust, O sons of men.”

P: For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day that has just gone by,

C: or like a watch in the night.

P: The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength;

C: yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

P: Teach us to number our days aright,

C: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

P: Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love,

C: that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

P: Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us,

C: for as many years as we have seen trouble.

P: May Your deeds be shown to Your servants,

C: Your splendor to their children.

P: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;

C: establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

ALL: 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.

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: O Lord God, heavenly Father, because You sent Your only-begotten Son to this world for our salvation and gave Him the name Jesus, grant that we may begin the new year trusting in His saving name and live all our days in His service to the praise and glory of His holy name; **C: in the name of Jesus who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 30:15-17

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
 “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, ¹⁶ and you said,
 “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away;
 and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

¹⁷ A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
 at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left
 like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

P: This is the Word of our Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 8:31b-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
 we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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. P: This is the Word of our Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL:

P: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;

P: The Lord has made known His salvation;

C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

THE GOSPEL READING: (please stand if you are able)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus said) “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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.

³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

OUR NEW YEAR’S PROFESSION OF FAITH: (*in unison*)

I believe in God the Father almighty, who made heaven, earth and all things, and who provides and cares for His creation every day of every year.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, whose miraculous birth, painful death, and glorious resurrection from the dead make us new and redeemed creatures through faith in Him and offer to us the hope of everlasting life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who gives us new life every day through the water of our baptism and makes us part of the Holy Christian Church here in time and also in the timeless world to come. Amen. (*please be seated*)

HYMN OF THE DAY: 733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”



1 O 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.

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,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home! Public domain

SERMON: “God’s Faithfulness: Our Comfort at the Turn of the Year” Joshua 23:14
(*Joshua said*) “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.”

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS: (*please stand if you are able*)

P: As we reflect on the past year, we know that we have done wrong, O God.

C: Against You only have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, O Lord.

P: As we look upon all of our deeds we confess that we have sinned and fallen short of Your glory, O God.

C: Hide Your face from our sins and blot out our iniquities, O Lord.

P: As we come to the beginning of a new year, we sincerely repent of the sins we have committed, O God.

C: Do not cast us from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from us, O Lord.

P: For this new year we look to Your mercy and ask for Your forgiveness, O God.

C: Cleanse us with hyssop and we will be clean; wash us and we will be whiter than snow, O Lord.

P: Strengthen our faith to do Your will and walk in Your ways this coming year, O God.

C: Create in us a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us, O Lord.

GOD’S FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS:

P: Our heavenly Father, in His boundless mercy, has heard our cries of helplessness in sin and has sent to us a Deliverer, His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from eternal death. In His place and by His command, as a called and ordained servant of His Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts in praise to God. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is good, right and proper for us always to give You thanks, holy Lord and gracious Father, through Jesus Christ, who by His resurrection triumphed over death bringing to us eternal life. Therefore, with all the saints and angels in heaven we glorify Your mighty name, saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (*sung to the tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*)

Our Fa-ther, Lord on heav'ns high throne

Most ho-ly be Your name.

Your king-dom come. Your will be done

On earth—in heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need; For-giv-en may we be;

In-to temp-ta-tion do not lead; From e-vil set us free.

Yours is the king-dom; un-to You In grate-ful love we bow;

And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view

Your might-y pres-ence now.

The glo-ry Yours; Your praise be sung

By an-gel hosts and men

In ev'-ry land, by ev'-ry tongue For-ev-er-more! A-men.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: ...The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you. (*please be seated*)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

390 "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
 2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
 3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
 4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
 That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
 There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
 Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

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880 "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow"



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
 2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
 3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
 4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
 rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
 star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
 wings a - bove me And shield me from a - harm.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
 But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
 And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
 Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
 sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
 be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
 o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.

- 5 My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely
 From peril guard your heads. Sweet slumbers may He send you
 And bid His hosts attend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

899 "Across the Sky the Shades of Night"



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are
 2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -
 3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your
 4 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your



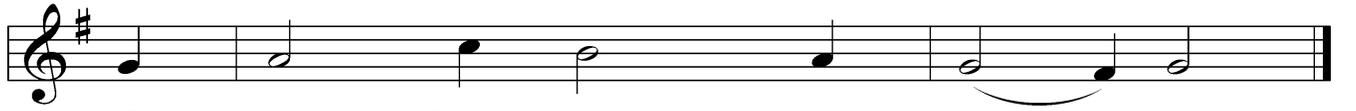
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
 car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last
 all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this
 grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our
 death and all de - spair - ing. At our life's end, Lord,



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,
 com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear
 strength and stay In man - ya dark and drea - ry day
 as Your own, Bring us with them a - round Your throne,



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.
 And crown us with Your bless - ing.
 Of sor - row and re - vers - es.
 The joys of heav - en shar - ing.

5 Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us,
 And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us
 Until at last our ransomed life Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
 When heav'n itself shall hide us.

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PRAYER AT THE CHANGE OF THE YEAR: (*please stand*)

P: O Lord God, You have guided us through this past year by Your grace. Your mercies were new to us every day. You have strengthened us in faith through Your Word and Sacraments. As we begin a new year of life in Your name, we ask for Your continued blessings upon us and all we do. By the power of Your Holy Spirit enable us to use our lives as a witness for Your glory;

C: through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION:

P: May the God of all grace, the Father, the (+) Son and the Holy Spirit keep you as His redeemed people every day of this new year.

C. Amen. Fill our lives this new year, O Triune God! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 887 “Now the Light Has Gone Away”



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
 2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
 3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
 5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
 Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
 O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
 All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
 Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

THE POSTLUDE:

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Serving Us in Worship This Evening

Preacher: Pastor Clifford Adair Liturgist: Pastor Mark Nebel

Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak Acolyte: Cadin Voss

WE WISH YOU A JOYOUS NEW YEAR UNDER GOD'S BLESSINGS!

Pastor Mark and Cindy Nebel and their family

OUR NEW YEAR'S DAY Matins Service is tomorrow at 10 a.m. It will be a totally different service from this evening.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2021 are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find your box of envelopes please call the church office.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the first quarter of 2021 are available in the entryway.

DAY SCHOOL resumes for the third quarter on Monday, January 4, at 8:05 a.m.

OUR MONTHLY afternoon Holy Communion service will be Thursday, January 7 at 2 p.m.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST is Saturday, January 9, at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book of Job.

As the Old Year Ends...

***We Thank God for
His Goodness in the Past.***

AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS...

**We Ask God to
Bless Us in the Future.**

**Our Lord Has and Will
Continue to Bless Us
Through His Son,
Our Savior Jesus Christ.**