



## As We Gather

Tomorrow, we celebrate the beginning of the new year. For many, that will mean a family gathering, a meal, and stories about the past. On this New Year's Eve, many will make New Year's resolutions—something they intend to change in the upcoming year. There is a good chance you already know where you will spend that time, often with family, food, and storytelling. Have you ever considered there is a day coming that will be like no other before it? That day will be a day of judgment and salvation. It will be a day when wickedness is forever vanquished to the pits of hell and the righteous will celebrate with a feast and the story of our salvation told. It will be a day of change—one the world has never seen before and never will again. Thanks be to God for that day—let us look forward to it with great joy!

### **Mesquite Lutheran Church & Childcare Center**

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**Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.  
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.**

**A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones and hold any applause for acknowledgements during the announcements. Thank You.**

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION**



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- \*Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- \*Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- \*Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- \*Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

#### **Please Note**

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,  
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.  
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

**PRELUDE** Prelude in C Major – J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

**PREPARATION**

**OPENING HYMN** # 816 “From All That Dwell Below The Skies”

**INVOCATION**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *2 Corinthians 13:5*

- P** Dearly beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ, we gather on this last day of the year to worship our God and to receive the Lord’s Supper.
- C** **We are also called by the apostle Paul: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”**
- P** Lift up your hearts, and joyfully give answer to the questions I shall now ask you. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness?
- C** **Yes, I confess it; I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.**
- P** How do you know this?
- C** **From the Ten Commandments. I have sinned against God and against my neighbor.**
- P** Are you sorry that you have sinned against God and your neighbor?
- C** **Yes, it bothers my conscience that I have sinned against God and my neighbor.**
- P** Where will you look for comfort and forgiveness?
- C** **Only to the mercy and grace of God, which He demonstrated by sending Jesus to the cross and then to rise from the tomb. There is no other place.**
- P** Do you repent of your sins?
- C** **Yes, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, I will turn from my sins and live a holy life.**
- P** Indeed, you should turn from your sins, as did Simon Peter, Paul, and all who have believed. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Thanks be to God for His gifts of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.**

## WORD

### SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you and bless you on the departure of an old year and the beginning of a new year.
- C** **The Lord also be with you.**

### 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     **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, 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. 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.”

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

### PSALM     *Psalm 90:1–12; antiphon: v. 17*

- P** Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
- C** **yes, establish the work of our hands!**
- P** Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- C** **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**
- P** You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!”
- C** **For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

- P** You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:
- C** **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**
- P** For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed.
- C** **You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**
- P** For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- C** **The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;**
- P** yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- C** **Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?**
- P** So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- P** Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
- C** **yes, establish the work of our hands!**

## **EPISTLE READING    Romans 8:31b–39**

“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 is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him.    **C** **Alleluia.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL                      Luke 12:35–40**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to 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** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY    #809    “Great Is Thy Faithfulness “**

## **SERMON    "Where Does The Time Go?!"    Luke 12:35-40**

## **NICENE CREED**

- C** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.
- C** **Lord, we ask in Your mercy to hear and answer our prayers.**
- P** Almighty God, You created this world from nothing, and by Your will it exists to this day;
- C** **yet there is coming a day when You will be revealed, the world will be judged, and we will be home forever.**
- P** We know that we are but strangers here;
- C** **heaven is our home. Bring us home as You have planned before the creation of the world.**
- P** We look around our world, and we do not understand it;
- C** **we see things we do not understand, such as violence against others, and our hearts are broken.**
- P** We long for the day Isaiah prophesied that will come;
- C** **today, however, You have made us Your hands, feet, and heart to other people as long as we are here.**
- P** Therefore, we lift up those who are suffering in this life, [especially . . .]. Lord, be with them, provide for their needs, and comfort them in their hour of affliction, reminding them of their great reward.
- C** **Help us remember Paul's reminder that our sufferings are not worthy of being compared with the glory that awaits us.**
- P** You have commanded us to pray for rulers everywhere in Your Word.
- C** **We lift up our President, all members of Congress, and our state and local leaders, and ask that they would be led by Your Spirit to make decisions pleasing to You and helpful for us, as well as all who rule this world.**
- P** For those whose needs are not known to us, we lift them up in silence, knowing You will hear and answer.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

- P** Lord Jesus, we look forward to the day when tomorrow is no more;
- C** **hear our prayers and keep us in the true faith, so we need not worry about tomorrow or eternity;**

**P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY *LSB 805*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

(Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Text: Public domain)

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times give thanks to You, holy Lord, everlasting God, almighty Father; for by Your will we were created before the beginning of the world and by Your grace alone we will see the Last Day unfold. By the cross alone and on Your grace does our hope rest. Therefore with archangels all the company of heaven we praise and glorify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS *LSB 178*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n 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.**



**WORDS OF OUR LORD “Remember Me”** by Martin Nystrom, Gerrit Gustafson

**P** (*sung*) “On the night ... This is My blood poured out for you and as you drink it remember Me.”

**C** (*sung*) “So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;  
For we see the life You gave And the blood you shed.  
And we remember Your wondrous love  
You gave your body You shed Your blood  
And we remember Your wondrous love  
You gave your body You shed your blood.”

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**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.

**PAX DOMINI**

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

**C** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI** *LSB 163*

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

#368 Angels We Have Heard On High    #547 The Lamb  
#549 All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

### #937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go In Peace



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

(Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948 Tune: American Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018714 Tune: Public domain)

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN "Shine On Us" Michael & Deborah Smith

Pastor:(*sung*) "Lord, let Your light, light of Your face, shine on us....  
Let Your grace, grace from Your hand, fall on us."

**Cong:(sung) “Lord, let Your love, love without end come over us.  
Lord, let Your love, love without end come over us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life  
To find our way In the darkest night.  
Let Your love come over us.”**

**Pastor only: Let Your light shine on us.**

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## **POSTLUDE**

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**Reader Today: Jan Aslin**

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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