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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW YEARS WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2009



Pastor: John P. Hein

Organist: Janelle Hein

Web: www.CLC Grace Lutheran Church.org

HYMN:..... *TLH 119: Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand*

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:..... *With stanzas from TLH 124*

P: With the entrance of another year, we are reminded of the past and we look forward to the future. As we look back on the past, what ought each of us confess about ourselves to God?

C: As I look back in the past, O Lord, I'm reminded of all my failures to keep what You command. My past is filled with my mistakes, deficiencies, and weaknesses, especially in light of Your most holy Law. I also realize that there are sins I have done that I didn't even know I did. Before You, O God, I am entirely sinful and deserve Your wrath and eternal punishment. But just as a New Year is dawning, by faith I know that You are merciful and that my future is filled with hope. Through the life and merit of Christ, You have rescued me and brought me deliverance from sin and death.

C [♪]: Our faithful God, we cry to Thee:
Still bless us with Thy favor,
Blot out all our iniquity,
And hide our sins forever.
Grant us a happy, good new year
And, when the hour of death draws near,
A peaceful, blest departure. (TLH 124, st. 4)

Pastor: Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing.
Upon the cross Your Savior died,
For you He has been crucified.
In Him you are forgiven!

C [♪]: Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks to Thee
In this new year we render;
Thy reign hath kept Thy people free,
Hath shown Thy mercies tender.
Thou hast redeemed us with Thy blood,
Thou art our Joy, our only Good,
In life and death our Savior. (TLH 124, st. 2)

P: What caused Jesus to die and do what was needed to pay for our sins?

C: Christ did all this because of His great love for the Father and each one of us, as the Scriptures teach.

P: Finally, why do you want to go to the Sacrament?

C: From this I learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of His great love for me. I also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

P: As you have confessed your sins, I, as a called servant of the Lord Jesus, in His place and by His command, forgive you all your sins. And now, abide in Him, that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

PREPARATION:..... *WS 755, st. 1-2, 5: What Is This Bread*

Note: Pastor will sing the opening question at the beginning of each stanza with the congregation responding thereafter.

DISTRIBUTION:..... *Meditative Music*

RESPONSE:.... *TLH 306, st. 8: Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Hast Prepared*

C [♪]: For Thy consoling Supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in every place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this Sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.



CLOSING PRAYER:..... *Luther's Evening Prayer*

C: We thank Thee, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept us this day; and we pray Thee that Thou wouldst graciously forgive us all our sins where we have done wrong, and graciously keep us this night. For into Thy hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with us that the wicked Foe may have no power over us. Amen.

BENEDICTION:..... *Based Upon Isaiah 41:10*

P: Now receive the Lord's blessing: Fear not, for the LORD is with you; Be not dismayed, for the LORD is your God. The LORD will strengthen you, Yes, the LORD will help you, The Lord will uphold you with His righteous right hand.

C [♪]: Amen, Amen, Amen.

HYMN:..... *TLH 653: Now the Light has Gone Away*

FIRST READING:.....*James 4:13-17*

Year by year our lives are spent on this earth and things do not always happen or turn out as we would wish. That is why our mindset is to be that which James teaches, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

GRADUAL PSALM:.....*Psalms 121, TLH 665*

The Pastor will sing odd-numbered stanzas, each followed by the entire congregation singing the even-numbered stanzas.

SECOND READING:.....*John 8:51-59*

We might be mortal human beings, but here Jesus shows Himself as the God of promise, the "I AM" God. That means He is the always-existent God who is eternal.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:.....*Luther's Explanation to the 1st Article*

C: I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind and all my senses, and still keeps them for me. God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil. God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

HYMN:.....*WS 743: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

SERMON:.....*2 Peter 3:8-15*

(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. (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (11) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; (15) and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ... (NKJVTM)

***2010 IS ANOTHER
REMINDER OF GOD'S TENDER MERCIES***

HYMN:.....*TLH 123: Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

OFFERING & PRAYERS:

PREPARATION FOR LORD'S SUPPER:..*Luther's Christian Questions*

P: Do you believe that you are a sinner?

C: Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.

P: How do you know this?

C: I know this from the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

P: Are you sorry for your sins?

C: Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

P: What have you deserved to receive from God because of your sins?

C: I have deserved His anger and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.

P: Do you also hope to be saved?

C: Yes, this is my hope.

P: Whom do you then trust?

C: I trust in my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

P: What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

C: He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.

P: How do you know this?

C: From the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament and by His body and blood which are given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

P: Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

C: Yes, I believe this.

P: What leads you to believe this?

C: I am moved to believe this from the word of Christ: "Take, eat, this is My body ... drink of it, all of you, this is My blood."

P: What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

C: We should proclaim and remember the shedding of His blood and His death, just as He taught us, "Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: Why should we proclaim and remember His death?

C: We should do this so that we learn: to believe that no creature could possibly do enough to pay for our sins; only Christ, true God and true man, could; to be frightened by our sins and consider them to be great indeed; and to find joy and comfort in Him, knowing that we are saved through this same faith.