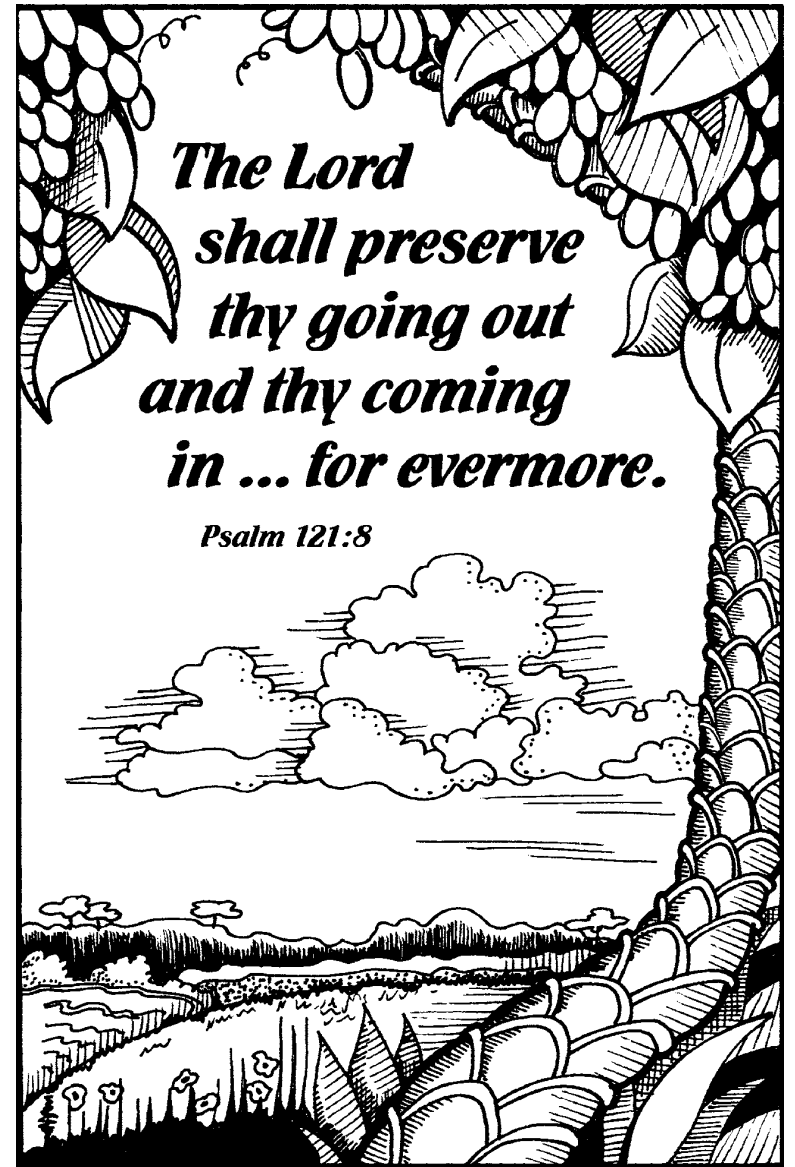


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**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FRIDLEY, MN
NEW YEAR'S EVE**



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEW YEARS EVE
DECEMBER 31, 2007

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New Year's Eve Worship

OPENING PRAYER:

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

LITURGY:.....*The Order of Vespers, TLH, p. 41 f.*

P: We begin our New Years Eve worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C [♪]: Amen.

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C [♪]: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C [♪]: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!

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.**

I may never see tomorrow,
There's no written guarantee.
And things that happened yesterday,
Belong to history.

I cannot predict the future,
I cannot change the past.
I have just the present moment,
I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely,
For it soon will pass away
And be lost to me forever,
As part of yesterday.

I must exercise compassion,
Help the fallen to their feet.
Be a friend unto the friendless,
Make an empty life complete.

The unkind things I do today
May never be undone
And friendships that I fail to win
May nevermore be won.

I may not have another chance
On bended knee to pray
And thank God with humble heart,
For giving me this day.

-Selected

“All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies” (Psalm 25:10).

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 553: Through the Day Thy Love Hath Spared Us*

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)

FIRST READING:..... *Genesis 41:46-49, 41:53-42:3*

SECOND READING:..... *Psalms 121, TLH 665*

Note: Pastor will sing the odd-numbered stanzas, each following by the entire congregation singing the even-numbered stanzas.

THIRD READING:..... *Hebrews 11:13-16*

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:..... *TLH 434: O God of Jacob, by Whose Hand*

SERMON:..... *Genesis 47:1-12*

(1) Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they *are* in the land of Goshen." (2) And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. (3) Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What *is* your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants *are* shepherds, both we *and* also our fathers." (4) And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to dwell in the land, because your servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine *is* severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." (5) Then Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. (6) "The land of Egypt *is* before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know *any* competent men among them, then make them chief herdsmen over my livestock." (7) Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. (8) Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old *are* you?" (9) And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage *are* one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage." (10) So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh. (11) And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. (12) Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in *their* families. (NKJV™)

The Years of My Pilgrimage

RESPONSE:..... *TLH 423, st. 3: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*

C [♩]: Haste, then, on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith and winged by prayer;
Heaven's eternal day's before thee,
God's own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close the earthly mission,
Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope soon change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

HYMN:..... *TLH 54: Guide My, O Thou Great Jehovah*

OFFERING:..... *Interlude*

NEW YEARS PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

