

Click here to open service web page for:2008/12/31/

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).



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FRIDLEY, MN
NEW YEAR'S EVE 2008**

HYMN:..... *For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace*

1. For Thy mer - cy and Thy grace,
 2. Lo, our sins on Thee we cast,
 3. Dark the fu - ture; let Thy light
 4. In our weak - ness and dis - tress,
 5. Keep us faith - ful, keep us pure,

Faith - ful thro' an - oth - er year.
 Thee, our per - fect Sac - ri - fice,
 Guide us, bright and Morn - ing Star.
 Rock of strength, be Thou our Stay;
 Keep us ev - er - more Thine own.

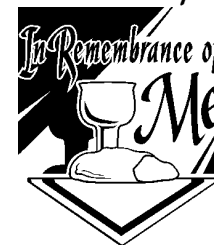
Hear our song of thank - ful - ness;
 And, for - get - ting all the past,
 Fierce our foes and hard the fight;
 In the path - less wil - der - ness
 Help, oh, help us to en - dure;

Sav - ior and Re - deem - er, hear!
 Press un - to our glo - rious prize.
 Arm us, Sav - ior, for the war.
 Be our true and liv - ing Way.
 Fit us for the pro - mised crown.

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 552, st. 1, 6-8*

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.

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.



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.

**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:..... *Exodus 12:21-32*

SECOND READING:..... *Luke 11:5-13*

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 110: Across the Sky the Shades of Night*

SERMON:..... *Acts 16:19-34*

(19) But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities. (20) And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; (21) "and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." (22) Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. (23) And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. (24) Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. (25) But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. (26) Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. (27) And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. (28) But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." (29) Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. (30) And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (31) So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." (32) Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. (33) And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. (34) Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. (NKJVTM)

All My Midnight Hours Defend

RESPONSE:..... *TLH 72, st. 1,3: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

**C [♪]: Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
And soon He draweth nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle!
At midnight comes the cry.**

**Ye saints, who here in patience
Your cross and sufferings bore,
Shall live and reign forever,
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb ye shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Your diadems of gold!**

HYMN:..... *TLH 368: The Lord My Pasture Shall Prepare*

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?

