

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP



All flesh is like grass,  
and all its glory  
is like a flower of the field.

The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,

but **the word of the Lord  
ENDURES FOREVER.**

- 1 Peter 1:24-25

New Year's Eve 2021

December 31, 2021



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer. Please also fill out our Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



While this day is not marked by a worship service in every church around the nation or world, we can see why it is a fitting time to gather once more before we turn the calendar to another day, month, and year. We gather to recall God's blessings of the past, which also point us ahead to the hope and comfort we have as we venture forward into the new year. And the reason we have such hope and comfort is found in the very promises we ponder, which all remind us that, though the seasons—along with everything else in this world—change, our God does not change. He is our dwelling place, our help in ages past, and our hope for years to come.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 7 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

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# *ORDER OF SERVICE*

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## **WELCOME**

### **OPENING HYMN**

*Across the Sky the Shades of Night | 367 v. 1-3*

*Please stand*

### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **DIALOGUE FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE**

*from Ecclesiastes 3 and Psalm 90*

For everything there is an appointed time.

**There is an appropriate time for every activity under heaven:**

a time to give birth and a time to die,

**a time to plant and a time to uproot plants,**

a time to kill and a time to heal,

**a time to tear down and a time to build,**

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

**a time to mourn and a time to dance,**

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones,

**a time to embrace and a time not to embrace,**

a time to search and a time to stop searching,

**a time to keep and a time to throw away,**

a time to rip and a time to sew,

**a time to be silent and a time to speak,**

a time to love and a time to hate,

**a time for war and a time for peace. (EHV)**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.

**Before the mountains were born**  
**or you brought forth the earth and the world,**  
**from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.  
**The length of our days is seventy years—  
or eighty, if we have the strength;  
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow,  
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.**

Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.  
**May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands. (NIV)**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Hymn 367 v. 4*

♪ 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. ♪

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

*Be seated*

# *The Word*

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## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**RESPONSE**

*Jesus, Still Lead On* | 842

**DEVOTION**

*Ecclesiastes 12:1-7*

**RESPONSE**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | 820

**DEVOTION**

*1 Peter 1:22-25*

**RESPONSE**

*Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast* | 644

**DEVOTION**

*Luke 13:6-9*

*Please stand*

**CREED**

*We All Believe In One True God* | 940

*Be seated*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself-all these come to us from your generous hand.

**We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercession*

Hear us, Lord as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. Please fill out the friendship register as it is passed.*

*If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.*



# *The Sacrament*

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*Stand*

## **PREFACE**

*on page 183*

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*on page 184*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*on page 185*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*on page 185*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*on page 186*

## **JESUS, LAMB OF GOD**

*on page 186*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*Be seated and await the direction of the ushers.*

### **QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION**

- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

*For further examination questions, see page 295 of the blue hymnal.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*To be sung during the Distribution  
Jesus Comes Today with Healing | 668*

*Stand*

**RESPONSES**

*on page 187*

**BLESSING**

*Be seated*

*on page 187*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Abide With Me | 783*

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