

New Year's Eve Worship

December 31, 2011



“...let me know how fleeting is my life.”

-Psalm 39:4



From the fullness of his GRACE we have all received one blessing after another.

John 1:16

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Sixth Night
Setting by Rebecca R. Kramer

WELCOME

HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Christian Worship #441

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home**

**Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!**

Stand

RESPONSIVE READING

[M] Praise the LORD, O my soul;

[C] **all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

[M] Praise the LORD, O my soul,

[C] **and forget not all his benefits.**

[M] The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

[C] **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

[M] He does not treat us as our sins deserve

[C] **or repay us according to our iniquities.**

[M] For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

[C] **so great is his love for those who fear him;**

[M] as far as the east is from the west,

[C] **so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

[M] As a father has compassion on his children,

[C] **so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.**

[M] From everlasting to everlasting

[C] **the LORD'S love is with those who fear him,**

[M] and his righteousness with their children's children.

[C] **Praise the LORD, O my soul.**

PRAYER

[M] 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.

[C] Amen.

Be seated

HYMN

Across the Sky the Shades of Night
Christian Worship #69

**Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting.
We deck your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting,
And, as the year's last hours go by, We raise to you our earnest cry,
Once more your love entreating.**

**We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of your mercies.
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r Our grateful song rehearses,
For you have been our strength and stay In man-y a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.**

**Before the cross, subdued, we bow, To you our prayers addressing,
Recounting all your mercies now And all our sins confessing.
We ask you, Lord, this coming year To keep us in your faith and fear
And crown us with your blessing.**

**And while we pray, we lift our eyes To dear ones gone before us,
Safe home with you in Paradise, Where Jesus will reign o'er us,
And ask of you, when life is past, To reunite us all at last
With those who've gone before us.**

WE REMEMBER DEPARTED MEMBERS

In this New Year's Eve service we remember the Christian brothers and sisters of Grace whom the Lord has welcomed home to heaven this past year.

[M] O, Lord, you turn mortals back to dust. You sweep them away in the sleep of death...Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. We remember our family members who have escaped the sorrows of this world and now, because Jesus is their Savior, enjoy the eternal pleasures of heaven.

Roland Hoefler	Irma Wismer
Dorothy Lehet	Grant Jefferies
Ruth Panthen	Gerhard Wachsmann
Bernard Ethington	

**Then, gracious God, in years to come, Whatever may betide us,
Right onward through our journey home, Oh, stay at hand to guide us,
Nor leave us till, at close of life, Safe from all peril, toil, and strife,
Heav'n shall enfold and hide us.**

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 90:1-12

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. You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men." For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered. We are consumed by your anger and

terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. 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. Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:6-9

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and

haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN

The Old Year Now Has Passed Away

(sung to the tune of CW #471)

Christian Worship #71

**The old year now has passed away; We thank you, O our God, today
That you have kept us through the year When danger and distress were near.**

**We pray you, O eternal Son, Who with the Father reigns as one,
To Guard and rule your Christendom Through all the ages yet to come.**

**Take not your saving Word away, Which lights and cheers our souls each day.
Abide with us and keep us free From error and hypocrisy.**

**Oh, help us to forsake all sin, A new and holier life begin!
Forgive the old year's sins, and bless The new year with true happiness,**

**Wherein as Christians we may live Or die in peace that you can give,
To rise again when you will come And enter your eternal home.**

**There shall we thank you and adore With all the angels evermore.
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith To praise your name through life and death.**

SERMON

**Psalm 39:4-6
2011—A Spiritual Review**

“Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each

man's life is but a breath. Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it.”

GATHERING OF THE THANK OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Lord's My Shepherd
*By Stuart Townend
piano & guitar duet*

HYMN

Before You, God, the Judge of All
Christian Worship #306

**Before you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I humbly fall.
I see my sins against you, Lord, My sins of thought and deed and word.
They press me sore; to you I flee: O God, be merciful to me!**

**O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in wrath away!
Let your good Spirit ne'er depart, But let him draw to you my heart
That truly penitent I be: O God, be merciful to me!**

**O Jesus, let your precious blood Be to my soul a cleansing flood.
Turn not, O Lord, your guest away, But grant that justified I may
Go to my house at peace to be: O God, be merciful to me!**

Stand

ORDER OF CONFESSION

Christian Worship p. 154-155

[M] In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

[C] **O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.**

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

[M] Hear us, Lord, as we confess our sins to you.

Silent confession

[M] Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

[C] **Yes, I believe.**

[M] Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

[C] **O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve you and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

[C] **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[M] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

[C] O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Our church practices "Member Communion." If you are a guest today and are a confirmed member of another WELS church, we invite you to the Lord's Table with us. If you are a guest today and are not a member of one of our Wisconsin Synod churches, we ask that you would speak to one of the pastors after church today or at some other time to discuss receiving the Lord's Supper with us in the future.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Stand

THANK THE LORD

[C] Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev - 'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

[M] Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

BENEDICTION

[M] The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and [+] give you peace.

[C] Amen.

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter
Christian Worship #70

**Help us, O Lord, for now we enter Upon another year today.
In you our hopes and thoughts now center; Renew our courage for the way.
New life, new strength, new happiness We ask of you—oh, hear and bless.**

**May ev'ry plan and undertaking Begin this year, O Lord, with you;
When I am sleeping or am waking, Help me, dear Lord, your will to do.
In you alone, my God, I live; You only can my sins forgive.**

**And may this year to me be holy; Your grace so fill my ev'ry thought
That all my life be pure and lowly And truthful, as a Christian's ought.
So make me while I'm living here Your faithful servant through the year.**

**Jesus, be with me and direct me; Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire;
Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me; Jesus, be all my heart's desire;
Jesus, be in my thoughts all day And never let me fall away.**

**And grant, Lord, when the year is over, That it for me in peace may close.
In all things care for me and cover My head in time of fear and woes.
So may I, when my life is done, Appear with joy before your throne.**

POSTLUDE

All Praise To Thee, My God, This Night
By Charles F. Gounod, Arr. by Valerie Floeter

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Service Pastor Sam Clemons
Communion Assistant..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Accompanist Elaine Goldie
Sound & Recording Tech Jeremy Snavelly