



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the Gospel
to help people
Grow
in the **Gospel**
and
Go
with the **Gospel**

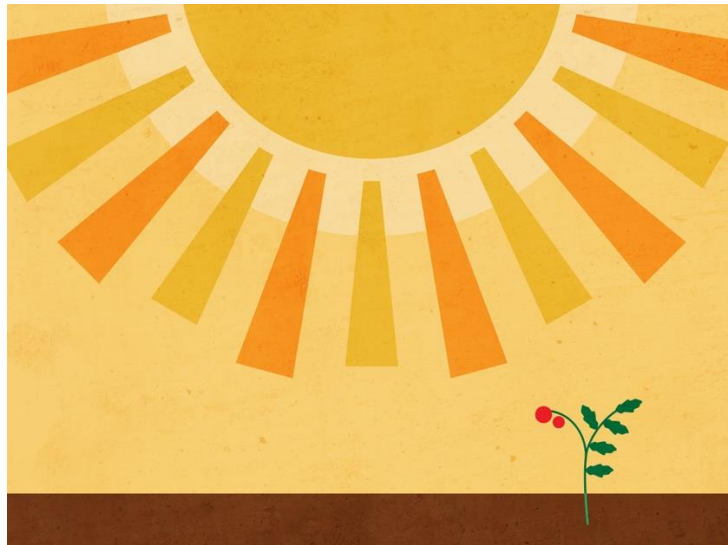
Welcome! We thank
God that you have
joined us at worship
today.

Restrooms are
located in the
basement. Hearing
loop headphones and
Large Print Hymnals
are available from an
usher.

If your children need
to leave worship,
please take them to
the basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He is
present among us in a
special way through
his Word and
Sacrament. We
acknowledge our sin
and rejoice in the good
news of forgiveness
through the life and
death of Christ. This is
the focus of our
worship.

December 31, 2024
New Years Eve



The Word of The Lord Endures Forever

On this Eve of a New Year we are gathered together to meditate on the goodness of our God during the past year and to pray for his grace for the future. As most years of our lives, this past one has likely been a year of joys and a year of sadness. There have been days when all has worked out well and days when it seems nothing could go right. We have laughed at times, cried at times, contemplated at times, and sometimes just sat back in wonder at life. Such is life in this imperfect world.

Yet in the midst of uncertainty we have turned again and again to the Lord our God who does not change. His Word has been our fortress and our Rock of refuge in all times. So as we approach the New Year tonight we turn again to that Word – to its revelation and its promises. It helps us to know God better. It will direct our prayers. It will fill us with hope. It will remind us of the forgiveness which we have in Jesus for our failures. May the Lord bless our meditation and grant us a blessed New Year – connected with Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

Questions for Personal Preparation for Holy Communion are located on p.15 of this service folder.

Opening Hymn

Across the Sky the Shades of Night CW 367



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night this New Year's Eve are
2 Be - fore the cross, sub - dued, we bow, to you our prayers ad -
3 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, our dear ones in your
4 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, we pray your hand may



fleet - ing. We deck your al - tar, Lord, with light, in sol - emn
dress - ing, re - count - ing all your mer - cies now and all our
car - ing who bright - ly shine in end - less day, past death and
guide us, and, on - ward through our jour - ney home, your mer - cy



wor - ship meet - ing; and, as the year's last hours go by, we
sins con - fess - ing. We ask you, Lord, this com - ing year to
all de - spair - ing. When ends our life, Lord, as your own, bring
walk be - side us un - til at last our ran - somed life is



raise to you our ear - nest cry, once more your love en - treat - ing.
keep us in your faith and fear and crown us with your bless - ing.
us with them a - round your throne, the joys of heav - en shar - ing.
safe from per - il, toil, and strife when heav'n it - self shall hide us.

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): James Hamilton, 1819–1896, alt.; (st. 3): Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946

Tune: adapt. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; plainsong, 10th cent.

Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Text (sts. 1–2, 4) and tune: Public domain

Stand

M: As this year draws to a close we worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

M: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination

M: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned in thought word, and deed
by my fault,
by my own fault,
by my own grievous fault;
wherefore I pray God almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

C: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

M: Amen.

**C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned in thought word, and deed
by my fault,
by my own fault,
by my own grievous fault;
wherefore I pray God almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

M: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Reading

Luke 13:6-9

Jesus encourages faith, fruit, and repentance and shares the patience of the Lord through a parable.

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So 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?’

⁸“ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’” (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90 (Red Hymnal)

Refrain



In ev - 'ry age, O Lord, you have been our ref - uge.

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.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day
that has just gone by,*
or like a watch in the night.

Refrain

You have set our iniquities before you,*
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
You turn mortals back to dust.*
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—
or eighty, if we have the strength;*
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright,*
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Refrain

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,*
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Psalm 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.

Hymn of the Day

Abide with Me CW 783:1,3



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
but kind and good, with heal - ing in thy wings,



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea;



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889
Text and tune: Public domain

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Alleluia.
(Psalm 90:1 NIV)

Reading

Ecclesiastes 12:1-2,5-7

Solomon writes about the Creator and the troubles of this life, but that our spirit is eternal and returns to God.

¹Remember your Creator
in the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble come
and the years approach when you will say,
“I find no pleasure in them”—
²before the sun and the light
and the moon and the stars grow dark,
and the clouds return after the rain;
⁵when people are afraid of heights
and of dangers in the streets;
when the almond tree blossoms
and the grasshopper drags itself along
and desire no longer is stirred.
Then people go to their eternal home
and mourners go about the streets.

⁶Remember him—before the silver cord is severed,
and the golden bowl is broken;
before the pitcher is shattered at the spring,
and the wheel broken at the well,
⁷and the dust returns to the ground it came from,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it. (NIV)

Confession of Faith *using Luther’s Explanation of the 1st Article of the Apostles’ Creed*

I believe that God made me and every creature, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle and all that I own, and all that I need to keep my body and life, and by defending me against all danger and guarding and protecting me from all evil.

All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.

For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Abide with Me CW 783:2, 5-6



2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;



earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.



change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?



O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!
I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

1 Peter 1:22-25

Peter encourages God's people to see they have been born again, of imperishable seed, by the eternal Word of God.

²²Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For,

“All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,

²⁵but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you. (NIV)

Stand

Create in Me

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men."

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

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

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

M: 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: 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 intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: 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.

C: 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.

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Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O Christ, Lamb of God



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

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

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Acknowledgments

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Distribution Hymn

Abide with Me CW 784:4,7



4 Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst smile,
7 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



and though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean - while,
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.



thou hast not left me oft as I left thee;
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



on to the close, O Lord, a - bide with me.
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Text and tune: Public domain

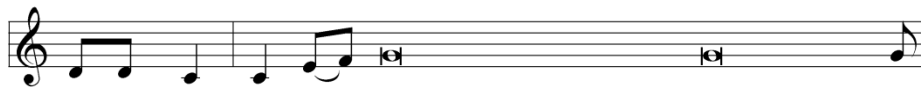
THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-

pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

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.

New Year's Litany and Benediction

M: As we look back on the changes that took place over the last year, and as we look ahead to the changes the new year promises to bring, we remember these words:

C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

M: As we daily drown the Old Adam in us to experience our new life in Christ, we remember the words:

C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

M: As we abandon those things that would lead us away from Christ and begin new ventures that draw us close to him, we remember the words:

C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

M: As we recommit ourselves to serving our Lord in the new year, we remember the words:

C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

M: As we wrestle with fears about the unknown and wonder what the future holds, we remember these words:

C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

M: With Jesus as our Savior,

C: Surely goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

M: As we cross into the new year, let us follow the example of the Apostle Paul, who writes in Philippians, chapter three, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

C: Help us, Lord, to press on in Jesus' name.

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

Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past CW 820



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727
Text and tune: Public domain

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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Go to <https://appointment.christianfamilysolutions.org/> or scan the QR Code for an appointment

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