

Time passes. This is a truth that both frightens and excites us at various stages of our lives. God's blessings continue. This truth comforts God's people.

Hymn *The Old Year Now Has Passed Away* CW 71:1-2,6



1 The old year now has passed a - way; We thank you,
2 We pray you, O e - ter - nal Son, Who with the



O our God, to - day That you have kept us
Fa - ther reigns as one, To guard and rule your



through the year When dan - ger and dis - tress were near.
Chris - ten - dom Through all the a - ges yet to come.

6 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.

Text: attr. Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.

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,

**Morrison Zion
Evangelical Lutheran
Church**

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 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 humbly 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.

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

Psalm of the Day The Congregation will sing the refrain and read the verses

Psalm 90

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

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Silence for meditation

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.

C: Amen.

Isaiah 51:1-6

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called to him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

Listen to me my people; hear me my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and

its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail."

Congregation: (sung) **O God, our help in ages past,
(CW 441:6) Our hope for years to come,
 Still be our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!**

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 he 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.'"

Hymn

Across the Sky the Shades of Night CW 69:1-2



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This
2 We gath - er up in this brief hour The
New Year's Eve are fleet - ing. We deck your al - tar,
mem - 'ry of your mer - cies. Your won - drous good - ness,
Lord, with light, In sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing, And,
love, and pow'r Our grate - ful song re - hears - es, For
as the year's last hours go by, We raise to you our
you have been our strength and stay In man - y a dark and
ear - nest cry, Once more your love en - treat - ing.
drear - y day Of sor - row and re - vers - es.

Text: James Hamilton, 1819-96, abr., alt.

Tune: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH SEI EHR (87 87 887) attr. Nikolaus Decius, c. 1485-after 1546, alt.

Sermon

God's Word Stands Firm Forever

1 Peter 1:22-25

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Stand

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.

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.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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. Amen.

Be Seated

Communion Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.

Distribution

M: Hear the prayers 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.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

Father, Let Me Dedicate CW 75:1

I Fa - ther, let me ded - i - cate All this year to you,
In what - e'er my earth - ly state, In what - e'er I do.
Not from sor - row, pain, or care Free - dom dare I claim;
This a - lone shall be my prayer: Glo - ri - fy your name.

Text: Lawrence Tuttielt, 1825-97, alt.

Tune: GLORIFICATION (75 75 D) Johann H. Tschlerlitzky, 19th century, adapt.