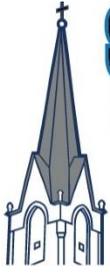




St. John-St. James Ev. Lutheran Church

1:00 PM, December 31, 2020



**St. John -
St. James**
Lutheran
Church & School

ST. JOHN—ST. JAMES
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

December 31, 2020

New Year's Eve

AS WE GATHER

Almighty God, you alone are constant and unchanging. You have safely brought us through the changes of time and the end of one year and the beginning of another. We humbly ask you to forgive the sins of the past year. We pray for the grace and renewed zeal to faithfully do your will during this new year. Be with us and guide us through the saving work of your Spirit. Amen.

WELCOME | ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

M In the name of the Father and of the Son **†** and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M Lord, you have been our dwelling place

C **Throughout all generations.**

M Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,

C **From everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

M For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by,

C **Or like a watch in the night.**

M You have set our iniquities before you,
C **Our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

M You turn mortals back to dust.
C **You sweep them away in the sleep of death.**

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

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

OPENING SONG *The Old Year Now Has Passed Away*

C *Verse 1*  **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.**

C *Verse 2*  **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.**

C *Verse 3*  **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.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(silence for meditation and reflection)

M Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who indeed gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M With the sure promise of God's forgiveness, let us rejoice in His goodness:

(Our Hymn response is printed on the next page)

Song Response:

All Glory Be to God on High



**All glory be to God on high,
Who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh;
The strife at last is ended.
The Father's love, the Savior's birth,
Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;
Oh, thank him for his goodness!**



**O Jesus Christ, the only Son
Of God, your heav'nly Father,
You did for all our sins atone,
And your lost sheep you gather.
O Lamb of God, to you on high
From depths of woe we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, Jesus!**

(CW Hymn#263)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and 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.

G **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

12 Remember 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”—² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; ³ when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; ⁴ when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint; ⁵ when 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. ⁶ Remember 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, ⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:6-9

⁶ Then 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. ⁷ 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?’
⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

SONG OF THE DAY

O Lord, Our Father,

 Verse 1 

**O Lord, our Father, thanks and praise
In this new year we render,
For ev'ry evil had to flee
Before you, our defender.
Our life was nourished, we were fed
With rich supplies of daily bread,
And peace reigned in our borders.**

 Verse 2 

**Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks and praise
In this new year we render;
Your reign has kept your people free,
Has shown your mercies tender.
You have redeemed us with your blood;
You are our joy, our only good,
In life and death our Savior.**

 Verse 3 

**O Holy Spirit, thanks and praise
In this new year we render,
For you have led our eyes to see
Your truth in all its splendor
And thus enkindled from above
Within our hearts true faith and love
And other Christian virtues.**

What Could a New Year Hold?

Colossians 1

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world— just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

RITE OF REMEMBRANCE

M It is a Lutheran tradition to use the New Year's Eve worship service to call to remembrance the Christian brothers and sisters whom the Lord has welcomed home to heaven in the last year. The names of our departed Christian family members are then read while the bell tolls. The remembrance begins and ends with singing.

C *Verse 1*

♪ **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.**

C *Verse 4*

♪ **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.**

M Moses has written about our God, *“You turn man back into dust and say, ‘Return O children of men.’ ...As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away.”*

We celebrate our loved ones who have escaped the sorrows of this world and now, because Jesus is their Savior, enjoy the eternal pleasures of the next world.

DEPARTED LOVED ONES REMEMBERED

C Verse 5

 **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, toll, and strife,
Heav’n shall enfold and hide us. (CW, HYMN #69)**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M For the peace from above, for the salvation of our souls, and for the redemption of the world, we pray to you, Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the nation and those who lead us, for us to be good and responsible citizens, for those who judge guilt and innocence within the courts, and for those who protect us and enforce our laws, we pray to you, Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For Christ's Holy Church here and throughout the world, for this congregation, and for those who serve us with his Word and Sacraments, we pray to you, Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the gift of time, and for a clear conscience through forgiveness, that we may let go of the past and embrace the future confident of God's presence and grace, we pray to you, Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For courage under trial, for steadfastness before temptation, and for grace when persecuted for the sake of the faith, we pray to you, Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For favorable weather, for the fruitfulness of the earth, for our deliverance from manmade and natural disasters, from pestilence and famine, and from trusting in earthly riches instead of His grace and favor, we pray to you, Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For our faithful reception of the Holy Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, and for our unity and harmony as the people of God, we pray to you, Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

(Special prayers and intercessions may be included here)

M Recalling God's goodness in ages past and living in hope and anticipation of that day when he shall come again in glory, we bring these prayers to your throne of grace in the name of Jesus:

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

C **Thanks be to God.**

M For the gift of time, and for a clear conscience through forgiveness, that we may let go of the past and embrace the future confident of God's presence and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M We remember on the night our Lord Jesus was betrayed he took bread and said, *"Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* Then he took the cup and said, *"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 as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."* (Matthew 26:26, 27; 1 Corinthians 11:23, 24)

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(After all those communing have received Lord's Supper, we conclude our celebration:)

M Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting. Be assured, your sins are forgiven.

G Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKS

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

BLESSING

M The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [†], the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Oh, God Our Help in Ages Past

Christian Worship, Hymn #441

 Verse 1 

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

 Verse 2 

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

 Verse 3 

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

 Verse 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!**

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY



2020

† Doris Behnke	born: 11-03-1929	died: 12-30-2019
† Vivian Herzog	born: 12-08-1928	died: 01-28-2020
† Roland Mahnke Jr.	born: 10-26-1935	died: 09-11-2020
† Betty Pritzl	born: 11-20-1947	died: 09-21-2020
† Dianne Reinemann	born: 02-27-1943	died: 09-30-2020
† LaVerne Treichel	born: 10-08-1934	died: 11-11-2020
† Luellis Meyer	born: 07-23-1925	died: 11-18-2020
† Betty Shamburek	born: 08-28-1945	died: 12-09-2020
† Germaine Luedtke	born: 07-12-1929	died: 12-24-2020

Pastor Information

Darin Aden, Pastor
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School Principal Information

Rick Zimmermann, Principal
Cell Phone: 608-350-6646
Email: rzimmermann@stjohnstjames.com

Church Office Information

Church Office Phone: 920-754-4568
Church Office Hours: 7:30 am—12:30 pm, M-F

School Office Information

School Office Phone: 920-754-4432
School Office Hours: 7:30 am—3:00 pm M-F
Website: stjohnstjames.com

Times of Worship

Thursday—6:30 pm Sunday—8:00 am & 10:15 am

Send Bulletin Information to cbubolz@stjohnstjames.com -
Wednesday Deadline