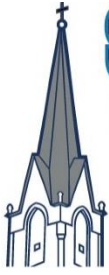




St. John-St. James Ev. Lutheran Church

1:00 PM, December 31, 2021



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

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

December 31, 2021

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



Verse 1 

**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!**



Verse 3 

**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#935)

PRAYER OF THE DAY



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.



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

Oh, God Our Help in Ages Past

Christian Worship, Hymn #820

 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!**

Psalm 90:1-6; 12-17**Lord, Teach us to Number Our Days**

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³ You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.” ⁴ A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. ⁵ Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death— they are like the new grass of the morning: ⁶ In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.

¹² Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

¹³ Relent, LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. ¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. ¹⁷ May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

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, toil, and strife,
Heav'n shall enfold and hide us. *(CW, HYMN #367)*

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.

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, who taught us to pray:

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)

A PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord God, have mercy on me a sinner. Forgive my open sins and my secret sins. Forgive the sins I know and the sins I do not know. Forgive the sins I did to please myself and the sins I did to please others. Forgive them all, Lord. I ask not assuming any worthiness on my part, rather I come in faith and at the invitation of your dear Son. Bless me through your sacrament, for his sake. Amen.

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

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Christian Worship, Hymn #488

C Verse 1 

**The day is surely drawing near
When God's Son, the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear
As judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease
When flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teaches.**

C Verse 5 

**My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!**

C Verse 6 

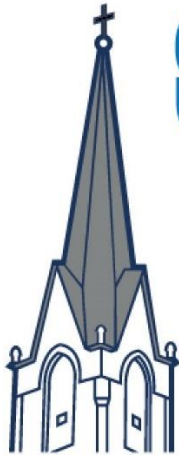
**O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently;
Come soon, Redeemer; make us free
From ev'ry evil. Amen.**

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY



2021

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| † Randall Loose | born: 12-27-1947 | died: 01-21-2021 |
| † Paul Frederick | born: 03-06-1944 | died: 01-31-2021 |
| † Gerhard Bubolz | born: 09-04-1928 | died: 09-14-2021 |
| † Michael Sobiech | born: 04-02-1932 | died: 10-20-2021 |
| † Mary Zeller | born: 07-14-1949 | died: 11-12-2021 |
| † Ronald Duescher | born: 03-22-1944 | died: 11-28-2021 |



St. John - St. James

Lutheran Church & School

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Rick Zimmerman, Principal

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School Office Phone: 920-754-4432

School Office Hours: 7:30 am—3:30 pm, M-F

Website: stjohnstjames.com

Times of Worship: Sunday—8:00 am & 10:15 am

Send Bulletin Information to:

cbubolz@stjohnstjames.com—Thursday Deadline