

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**December 31, 2020**

# New Year's Eve

December 31, 2020

5:00 p.m.

## Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Mark's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness through Jesus.

### Explore our website! You'll find materials for:

- Worship
- Bible Studies
- Devotions
- Children's Sunday School

### Follow us to stay connected:

- Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmarksch](https://facebook.com/stmarksch)
- Follow us on Instagram: [instagram.com/stmarkslutheran](https://instagram.com/stmarkslutheran)
- Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: [vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch](https://vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch)

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Worship Focus:** A new year, and with it comes plans and hopes and new beginnings. Tonight we pause to reflect so we can go into the new year with godly focus. We focus especially on God's grace that has been with us in the past, is with us now, and will be with us in the future. May God bless our meditation this evening so we can honor his grace in the year to come.

## PRELUDE

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**  
*Paul Manz*

## OPENING HYMN

**Amazing Grace**  
*Christian Worship #379*

1. **Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.**
2. **The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.**
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.**
4. **When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.**

## INVOCATION

**Minister:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation:** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M:** We have come into the presence of God who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## 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 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.

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 51:1-6

<sup>1</sup> “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;  
<sup>2</sup> look to Abraham, your father,  
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.  
When I called him he was only one man,  
and I blessed him and made him many.  
<sup>3</sup> 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.  
<sup>4</sup> “Listen to me, my people;  
hear me, my nation:  
Instruction will go out from me;  
my justice will become a light to the nations.  
<sup>5</sup> 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.

*continued...*

<sup>6</sup>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.”

## HYMN

**Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year**  
*Christian Worship Supplement #708*  
*verses 1-4*

1. **Now greet the swiftly changing year  
With joy and penitence sincere.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.**
2. **Remember now the Son of God  
And how he shed his infant blood.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.**
3. **This Jesus came to end sin’s war;  
This name of names for us he bore.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.**
4. **His love abundant far exceeds  
The volume of a whole year’s needs.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.**

## DEVOTION

**Luke 13:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?’

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

## OUR THANK OFFERING

*Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be placed in the basket on the table, or you can mail your thank offering to the church. You can also give online through our website under the “Resources” tab.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal God, you are always the same and your years have no end. In your mercy we close another calendar year. It has been filled with your goodness to us. For this we humbly thank you. It has also known our sins, disobedience, and failures. For these we ask your forgiveness and pardon in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

Lord, at the beginning of this year we need you. Our days are written in your book and only you know if we shall live through this year that is about to begin. Continue to be merciful to us and help us daily honor your grace. Bless our body and soul, our property, and our reputations. Renew in us the knowledge of the promise you made to us at our baptisms, so that we may have childlike assurance throughout this year that you will never forget us. Allow us, to the best of our ability, to live a year of service to you. Let this year be one which draws us closer to you as we serve our Savior Jesus.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus, our Savior, who also taught us to pray...

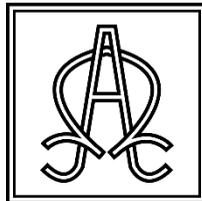
## LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

## THE BLESSING

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.**



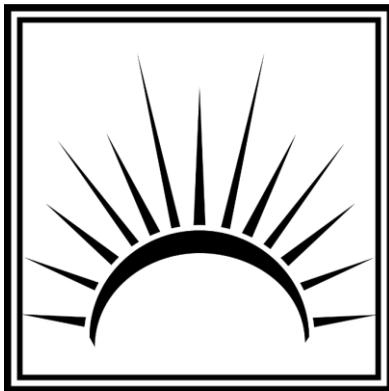
## CLOSING HYMN

**Day by Day**  
*Christian Worship Supplement #765*  
*verses 1 & 2*

1. **Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
Where, at last, I'll find eternal rest.**
2. **Day by day, I know you will provide me  
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow;  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow;  
Till in glory I behold your face.**

## POSTLUDE

**Day by Day**  
*Lloyd Larson*



*Content requiring a copyright license is reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-711071. All rights reserved.*

**Scripture Quotations:** From the *Holy Bible, New International Version* (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.