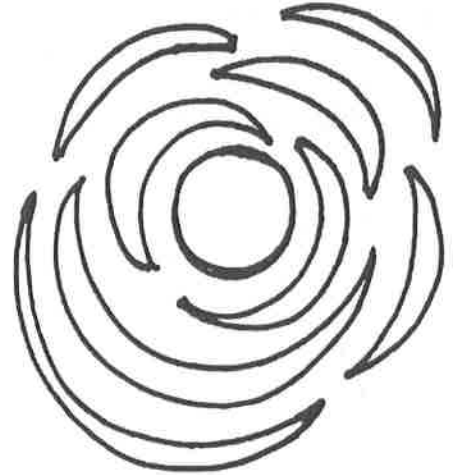


OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP



Sunday, January 1, 2023
**Service to Welcome the New Year in
the Name of Jesus**

Introduction

At the turn of the year we meditate on endings and beginnings, knowing that all the world's time begins and ends in God. From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are christened at the font. Bearing Christ's name, we share the same Holy Parent and are invited to address this parent intimately. By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him. Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**
**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
We are children of God.... salvation of God.
Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW 797 - *Blessed be the Name*

***Prayer**

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**
The assembly is seated.

Word

Micah 6:6-8

Silence for Reflection

To us a child is born, to us a Child is given.
In the Word was life and the life was the light of all people.

Revelation 21:1-6a

Silence for Reflection

To us a child is born, to us a Child is given.
In the Word was life and the life was the light of all people.

Gospel Canticle

ELW 723 - *Canticle of the Turning*

Gospel Matthew 25:31-45

Reflection: *The Painfully Real Adventure of Trying to Write the Incredibly True Adventure of One Triune God in Love with the Whole World*

Hymn of the Day

ELW 292 – *Love Has Come*

Creed

from the New Zealand Prayer Book

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship You.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Holy God... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

...Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Offering

***Offering Prayer**

***Great Thanksgiving**

***Prayer of Jesus**

Our Father (*Parent*), 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.

Communion

***Sending Prayer**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils and joys unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Blessing**

***Sending Hymn**

ELW 808 - *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

***Dismissal**



WORSHIP LEADERS

Presider/Preacher: Rev. Amalia Vagts **Accompanist:** Nancy Rude
Assisting Minister & Acolyte: Ginny Phillips **Ushers:** Rick & Melanie Bowman
Greeter: Gloria Schmidt **Communion Assistant:** Linda Zizka
Sound Effects: David Lester

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