



**Welcome,
2021!**

New Year's Day January 1, 2021

PRESERVICE MUSIC – RINGING OF THE BELLS – WELCOME

As We Gather

The movement from one year to the next provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the year past and look forward to the coming year. As we reflect on the past, many of us will remember particular joys or sorrows. Most of us will have had many ordinary days as well. There have been times we have forgiven others and times we have been forgiven ourselves. In the midst of it all was God's enduring love for us in Jesus. As we look forward to the coming year, we face unknowns. As one familiar prayer expresses, we face this new year "not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us." In the coming year too, God's enduring love will be present with us no matter what. For nothing "in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." With God's enduring love behind us and ahead of us, we enter the new year as people called to love one another and our neighbors in ways that reflect the enduring love of God for us in Jesus.

Opening Hymn Help Us, Oh Lord! Behold, we Enter

TLH 120

- 1 Help us, Oh Lord! Behold, we enter Upon another year today
 In Thee our hopes an tho'ts now center, Renew our courage for the way
 New life, new strength, new happiness, We ask of Thee oh hear and bless!

- 2 May every plan and undertaking This year be all begun with Thee;
 When I am sleeping or am waking, Still let me know Thou art with me.
 Abroad do Thou my footsteps guide, At home be ever at my side.

- 3 Be this a time of grace and pardon. Thy rod I take with willing mind,
 But suffer naught my heart to harden; Oh, let me then Thy mercy find!
 In Thee alone, my God, I live; Thou only canst nay sins forgive.

- 6 And grant, Lord, when the year is over, That it for me in peace may close;
 In all things care for me and cover, My head in time of fear and woes.
 So may I when my years are gone, Appear with joy before Thy throne.

Please Stand

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

P At the name of Jesus

C **every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

P and every tongue confess that

C **Jesus Christ is Lord,**

P to the glory of God the Father.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and to one another. We have sinned against You, O God, in thought, word, and deed.

C **Forgive us and restore us, O Lord.**

P We have misused Your name.

C **Forgive us and restore us, O Lord.**

P We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

C **Forgive us and restore us, O Lord.**

P We have failed to bless others as You so abundantly bless us.

C **Forgive us and restore us, O Lord.**

P For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Help us to bless others as You have blessed us, to forgive others as You have forgiven us, and to look with hope for the new creation in Christ You have promised;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be Seated

Epistle

Romans 3:21–28

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be Seated

Sermon Hymn Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

TLH 123

- 1 Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
 Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home!
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure;
 Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
 From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight, Are like an evening gone,
 Short as the watch that ends the night, Before the rising sun.
- 5 Thy word commands our flesh to dust: "Return ye sons of men!"
 All nations rose from earth at first, And turn to earth again.
- 6 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;
 They fly forgotten as a dream, Dies at the opening day.
- 7 Like flowery fields the nations stand, Pleased with the morning light;
 The flowers beneath the mower's hand, Lie withering ere 'tis night.
- 8 Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our Guard while troubles last, And our eternal Home!

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Sermon "Happiness Can be Ours" Luke 2:21

Please Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P One in Christ and heirs of God's promises through Baptism, let us pray for the Church, the world, and ourselves, saying,
- C **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.**
- P For the Church, that, redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we bless the world in the name of Jesus, that all peoples and nations rejoice in the Lord, for our Synod—our president, district presidents, pastors, teachers, and all servants of the Church, that their love for and service of others bless the world in the name of Jesus.
- C **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.**
- P For this nation in which we live, in thanksgiving for the abundance of life and freedom that we enjoy. For the president and Congress, for our governor and local elected officials, that all work for the common good and serve not themselves, but chiefly those who are struggling.
- C **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.**
- P For those in need in our community—the sick, [*especially . . .*—that they receive mercy and healing according to God's will, that they find peace in the love of Jesus, and that their hearts be open to see the love of Christ.
- C **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.**
- P For the congregations of Grace and St. Paul's, that living in the promise of God's saving love for us in Christ, we bless one another, our neighbors, and our community, looking with hope toward the ultimate eighth day, when all creation will be restored and Christ will reign forever.
- C **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.**
- P Let your Holy Spirit breathe the prayers of our hearts that remain unspoken, and hear these spoken prayers in the mercy You show for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ. To God be the glory forever and ever.
- 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.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

LSB 390

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

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