



St. John Lutheran Church and School
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Reverend Jeff Caithamer
revcaithamer - at - stjoh-n-lcms.org
School Principal: Tim Gabbert

Divine Service IV
**stand as you are able*

Prelude

Hymn 733 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

- 1 O 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 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

Invocation, Confession, Absolution

p. 203

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

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm 90:1-12

Antiphon

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands up- | on us,

Yes, establish the work | of our hands!

Lord, you have been our | dwelling place
in all gener- | ations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth | and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting | you are God.

You return | man to dust
and say, "Return, O chil- | dren of man!"

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when | it is past,
or as a watch | in the night.

You sweep them away as | with a flood;
they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the | morning:
in the morning it flourishes and | is renewed;
in the evening it fades and | withers.

For we are brought to an end by your | anger;
by your wrath we | are dismayed.

You have set our iniquities be- | fore you,
our secret sins in the light of your | presence.

For all our days pass away un- | der your wrath;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength | eighty;

yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone,
and we | fly away.
Who considers the power of your | anger,
and your wrath according to the | fear of you?
So teach us to number | our days
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

Antiphon

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

- 1** To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Good-will from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing-
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.
- 2** To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—
- 3** For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray. (*The Collect of the Day is spoken.*)
C **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 30:8-17

⁸And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. ⁹For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord; ¹⁰who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, ¹¹leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." ¹²Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, ¹³therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; ¹⁴and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly

that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.” ¹⁵For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, ¹⁶and you said, “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away; and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. ¹⁷A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:31b-39

^{31b}If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, The Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.
(35-40)

CGlory to You, O Lord.

³⁵“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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.

Hymn 899 *Across the Sky the Shades of Night*

- 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.
- 2 Before the cross subdued we bow,
To You our prayer addressing,
Recounting all Your mercies now,
And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching You this coming year
To keep us in Your faith and fear
And crown us with Your blessing.
- 3 We gather up in this brief hour
The mem'ry of Your mercies:
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r
Our grateful song rehearses;
For You have been our strength and stay
In many a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.
- 4 We now remember, as we pray,
Our dear ones in Your caring
Who brightly shine in endless day,
Past death and all despairing.
At our life's end, Lord, as Your own,
Bring us with them around Your throne,
The joys of heaven sharing.
- 5 Then, gracious God, in years to come,
We pray Your hand my guide us,
And, onward through our journey home,
Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life
Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
When heav'n itself shall hide us.

Sermon *"Like All the Rest, a Year Unlike All Others"*

Luke 12:35-40

Prayers

Gathering of Tithes and Offering are brought forwarded.

Lord's Prayer

Collect

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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 give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 898 *The Ancient Law Departs*

- 1 The ancient Law departs, And all its fears remove,
For Jesus makes with faithful hearts A covenant of love.
 - 2 The Light of Light divine, True brightness undefiled,
He bears for us the pain of sin, A holy, spotless child.
 - 3 His infant body now Begins the cross to feel;
Those precious drops of blood that flow For death the victim seal.
 - 4 Today the name is Thine At which we bend the knee.
They call Thee Jesus, child divine; Our Jesus deign to be.
- △5 All praise, eternal Son, For Thy redeeming love,
With Father, Spirit, ever one In glorious might above.

Postlude

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer

Organist: Keith Williams

Videographer: Lou Ann

