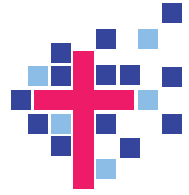


Ring in the New Year



Welcome to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

*By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:
Worship God, Grow in faith, Share the Gospel, Serve others, Welcome all*





LITANY AND PRAYER FOR THIS NEW YEAR

Pastor Dave Thomas

It's about time.

It's about time for a new year.

It's about time to turn the page, to put up a new calendar, to start fresh.

Lord, you know what we went through this past year.

And Lord knows others went through worse.

2020 was a year like no other.

It's about time, Lord, for 2021.

It's also about time.

About the passing of days and weeks and months and years.

Even time – or at least our perception of it – seems impacted by the events of this past year.

For some, time seemed to slow down, to come to a crawl, or even to repeat itself.

One day was just so much like the day before.

For others, time flew by – too fast.

Everything seemed out of control, chaotic, one thing zooming in and out of focus, then another.

There was hardly time for us to catch our breath.

It's about time, Lord.

And our remembering that you are the God of all our days, and weeks, and months, and years.

That you exist outside of temporal confines.

That a day to you is like a thousand years,

And a thousand years, but a day.

We're ready, Lord.

Ready to put this past year behind us.

Ready to look forward with faith and hope.

Ready to trust that better days are coming.

And that we can make this and every day better,

By living as you have called us to live.

By loving as you have called us to love.

By trusting you as you have called us to trust.

It's about time, Lord.

And as we come to this time, this day of worship, and this new year,

We ask your blessings upon this time, and this day, and this year,

And upon us,

And all who love us,

And all whom we love.

And all, Lord. And all.

In the name of the King of all Days we ask this. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

ELW #733

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

THE PSALM

Psalm 8 (NRSV)

¹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
²Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NRSV)

A reading from Romans.

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, all things are being made new.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

THE GOSPEL

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

The good news as recorded in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

MESSAGE

Pastor Dave Thomas

Be Resolved

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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Music © Oxford University Press.

PROFESSING OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

Beautiful Things – Matt and Lisa Gungor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends “Into our world or lives or other circumstance,”
to which you are invited to respond, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Let us enter this New Year in peace.
Let us have the faith to look forward,
And the courage to learn from what is now behind.
Let us fix our focus on Christ, our Lord,
for in him our eyes have seen the salvation
which God has prepared for all people.
May God smile upon you this year, making you faithful and wise;
May the peace of Christ Jesus be yours each and every day;
And may the Holy Spirit be your constant companion and guide.
Amen.



Morning Has Broken

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

SENT TO SERVE

Jesus said, "As I have been sent, so also I send you."

By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:

Worship God,

Grow in Faith,

Share the Gospel,

Serve Others,

Welcome All. — Thanks be to God!
