

New Year's Eve 2021

A Service of Lessons, Song, and the Lord's Supper

Opening Hymn

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus *Christian Worship 452*

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Flee the world which would deceive us and to sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Fathers bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, to his image e'er conform;
Heaven's glory soon will please us, sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, we shall reap in heav'nly joy,
And the fears that now annoy shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ I suffer here with thee; there, oh share thy joy with me.

Let us also die with Jesus, his death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction frees us, quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living, flesh and blood and die to sin,
And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus here I die to thee, there to live eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; since he's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus thou art now our head.
We are truly thine own members; where thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, faithful friend, as thy dear brethren.
Jesus here I live to thee, also there eternally.

Prayer

Lord God, you have brought us safely through another year to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise.

On this New Year's Eve we also ask that you teach us to think rightly on time and the shortness of our time in this world. Teach us to count each day as a blessing from you. Help us to use this time you give us for your purpose - to serve and share in your love. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Lesson on Time-

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

What does man gain from all his labor
at which he toils under the sun?

Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.

The sun rises and the sun sets,
and hurries back to where it rises.

The wind blows to the south and turns to the north;
round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

All streams flow into the sea,
yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from,
there they return again.

All things are wearisome,
more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing,
nor the ear its fill of hearing.

What has been will be again,
what has been done will be done again;
there is nothing new under the sun.

Is there anything of which one can say,
“Look! This is something new”?

It was here already, long ago;
it was here before our time.

There is no remembrance of men of old,
and even those who are yet to come
will not be remembered by those who follow.

**C: Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (from Ps 90)**

Hymn

All Depends on Our Possessing *Christian Worship Hymn 421*

All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
In their God are not forsaken
And e'er keep a dauntless heart.

He who to this day has fed me
And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me,
Will remain my help divine.

Many spend their lives in fretting
Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure
And that now is seldom found.

Well he knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt his wisdom never--
As God wills, so be it ever --
I to him commit my way.

If on earth my days he lengthen,
He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in his grace.

A Lesson on Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1-17 (select)

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

**C: Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.** (from Ps 90)

I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account. And I saw something else under the sun:

In the place of judgment—wickedness was there,
in the place of justice—wickedness was there.

I thought in my heart,
“God will bring to judgment
both the righteous and the wicked,
for there will be a time for every activity,
a time for every deed.”

**C: Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.** (from Ps 90)

M: There is a time for God's judgment.
C: **There is a time for God's grace.**
M: Today we live in God's time of grace.
C: **Tomorrow may be God's time of judgment.**

M: Today is our time to seek the LORD.
C: **Today is our time to hear the LORD.**
M: Today is our time to praise the LORD.
C: **Today is our time to share the LORD.**

Psalm 103 - Of David.

Praise the LORD, O my soul;
 all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the LORD, O my soul,
 and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
 and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
 and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness
 and justice for all the oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
 his deeds to the people of Israel:

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
 slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
 nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
 or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,

he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass,

he flourishes like a flower of the field;

the wind blows over it and it is gone,

and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting

the LORD's love is with those who fear him ... Praise the LORD, O my soul.

TRUST

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Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me



Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;
When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;



Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,
I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;
Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,



Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.
You will hold me ev - er in your hand.



Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure,
Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;
Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me,



Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

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Tune: BLOTT EN DAG (10 9 10 9 D) Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**C: Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.** (from Ps 90)

Hymn

Children of the Heavenly Father *Christian Worship 449*

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Lesson

Romans 8:18-30 (select)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ... We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

**C: Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.** (from Ps 90)

Hymn

Jerusalem the Golden *Christian Worship 214*

Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest --
The sight of it refreshes The weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion, All jubilant with song
And bright with many an angel And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them; The daylight is serene;
The pastures of the blessed Are ever rich and green.

There is the throne of David, And there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, The song of them that feast;
And they who with their leader Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.

Oh, sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
Oh, sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest;
You are with God the Father And Spirit ever blest.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

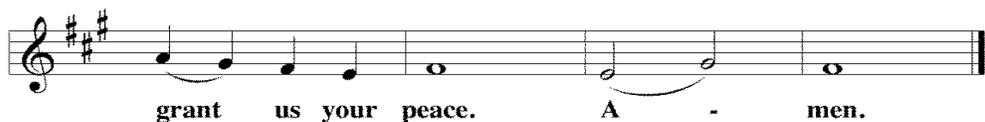
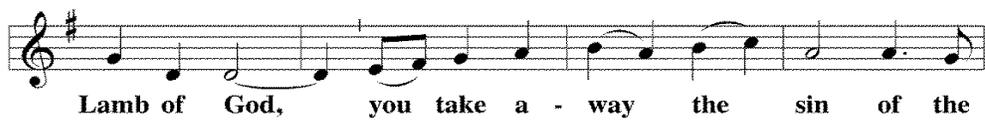
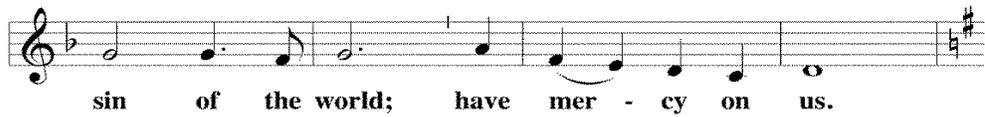
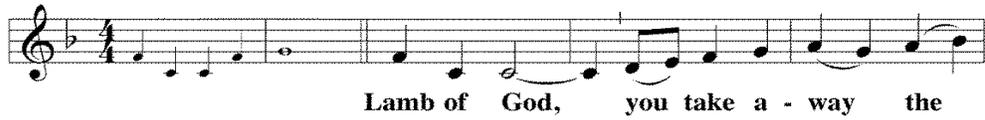
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



Distribution

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Abide with Me
Christian Worship 588 (1,3,5-7)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea;
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!