

St. Peter Lutheran Church  
December 31, 2010 – New Years Eve

### AS WE GATHER

Almighty Father, 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 this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of that event which gives us joy forever--the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+ PREPARATION +

### GREETING

### INVOCATION

Pastor: A New Year demands a New Beginning.

**People: Can we really begin anew? So much time has passed.**

Pastor: God spoke through Ezekiel: "I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit."

**People: How can we rid ourselves of all offenses and get this new heart and spirit?**

Pastor: Come before God in Jesus' name. Confess your sin and ask forgiveness that you might take part in His new covenant of forgiveness.

*(A brief silence is kept.)*

**People: Merciful Father, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have misused our time and talents and treasures. We seek a NEW beginning by the power of Your Spirit. Forgive us in the name and for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce to you the full and free forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The record of your lives is wiped clean and you are renewed in this New Year.

**People: Sing to the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things! Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**      *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #380*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: We praise and thank you, O God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades. Night has fallen, and the year's allotted span draws to a close. The daylight which you created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us. We praise you and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; through him be glory, honor, and power to you in the Holy Spirit now and always and forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

+ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** +

**HYMN**            *"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"*            #733

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

**READING** Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 "For everything there is a season."

Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

**READING** 2 Corinthians 5:17--6:2 The acceptable time.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!

P:        The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the First chapter.

C:        **Glory be to Thee, O Lord. (Sung)**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 1:18-21 You shall name him Jesus.

P:        This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C:        **Praise be to Thee, O Christ. (Sung)**

**NICENE CREED** (*as found in the back cover of the hymnal*)

**SERMON**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor:    Hear us, O God, as we bring the whole world of people into  
the fellowship of our prayers.

(Moment of silence)

Build up your Church in strength,

**People:    so that the good tidings of great joy may be spread far  
and wide.**

Pastor:    We pray for all nations,

**People:    that in the coming year they may be drawn into closer  
bonds of mutual honor and service.**

Pastor:    We pray for our beloved land,

**People:    that those in leadership will advance the cause of peace  
and unity and justice among us.**

Pastor:    We pray for our congregation,

**People:    that we seek to fulfill your ministry among us and  
through us.**

Pastor:    Remember in mercy those who end the year under any  
shadow of affliction, especially . . . . Give them comfort  
and peace,

**People:    in Jesus Christ their Savior. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

+ SACRAMENT +



**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

*(p. 194-199 in front of hymnal)*

*(Please see the Communion Statement on Page 6)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS #’s 744, 397, 738, 606, 352**

**THE NUNC DIMITTIS** p199-200

**THE THANKSGIVING** p200

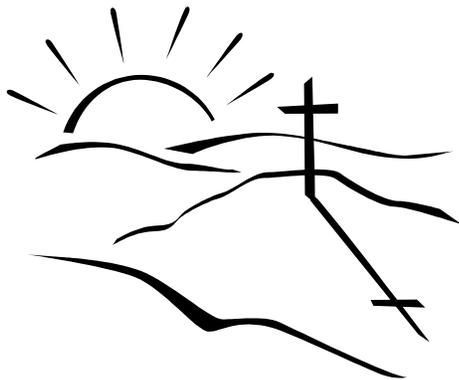
**THE BENEDICAMUS** p201

**THE BENEDICTION** p202

**THE TRIPLE AMEN (Sung)**

**THE CLOSING HYMN "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" #922**

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**To Our Guests and Visitors**

We WELCOME all our friends in Christ who have come to worship with us. If you are a guest, please feel at home with us, sign our guest register, and worship with us whenever you are able. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to consider becoming a part of our church family.

**The Lord’s Supper**

is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another.

Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, guests who are not confirmed members of a LCMS congregation and have not previously communed at this altar, are asked to first speak with our pastor.

If you are unable to do so before the service, it is out of Christian love and care for your souls that we ask you to refrain from communing this morning.

For further study, please see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

If you desire to receive a blessing for yourself or your children, please approach during communion, cross your arms over your chest and bow your head as you kneel at the altar rail.

