



Marked with Signs and Scars

Sunday, December 31, 2023

As We Gather

As the world around us gathers this evening for a grand celebration, what are they celebrating? Is the advancing of a digit on the calendar necessarily such a happy thing? Behind all the noise, God has something to say, and it is relevant no matter the date or the age. But who is listening? It is the way of the world even in all of us to despise preaching and God's Word in favor of invented excuses or illusions. Through the prophet Isaiah, God calls all this night to awaken and listen to the His saving Word, to hold it sacred, and to gladly hear and learn it. For only then can we be assured of the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In God's Word alone do we remain awake and "dressed for action," our lamp of faith burning, awake and ready for our entrance into the eternal joy of the day of resurrection and eternal life.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

P: I will go to the altar of God, **C: to God my exceeding joy.**

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

Confession and Absolution

P: I confess to almighty God,

C: before all the company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

P: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Opening Hymn “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” *LSB* 366

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, all our times are in Your hands. You have created us and given us the gift of life and every day the gifts of health and daily bread. Above all, by water and Your mighty Word, You give us the forgiveness of sins and the new birth of the Spirit by which we call you Father. Father in heaven, grant to us peace in our day and keep us steadfast in Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 30:8–17*

(after the reading)...

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 90:1-12, 17*

P: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

C: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

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

P: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

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

P: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

C: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

P: For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed.

C: You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

P: For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C: 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.

P: Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

C: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

Epistle Romans 8:31b–39

(after the reading)...

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel Luke 2:21-40

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

C: Glory be to You, O Lord. *(after the reading)...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day “Across the Sky the Shades of Night” *LSB* 899

Sermon ‘Marked With Signs and Scars’ *Luke 2:21*

Offering & Attendance / Involvement Cards

(The Offering of Peace is exchanged during Offering)

Prayer of the Church

P: *(after each petition)....* Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, in whom all our days are made holy by His abiding presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

Distribution

Distribution Hymns "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray" *LSB* 663
and "I Leave All Things to God's Direction" *LSB* 719

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray. O Lord, mercifully hear the prayers of Your Church throughout the fast-fleeting years that we, being delivered from all adversities and serving You with a quiet mind, may enjoy Your peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Benediction

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 "Now the Light Has Gone Away" *LSB* 887



*May the new year
Bring joy, peace &
happiness to you
& your entire family.*