

Historic Scripture Lessons for New Year, Name of Jesus Old Testament

Isaiah 55:1-13 NIV "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. 3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. 4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. 5 Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor." 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. 12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."

Epistle

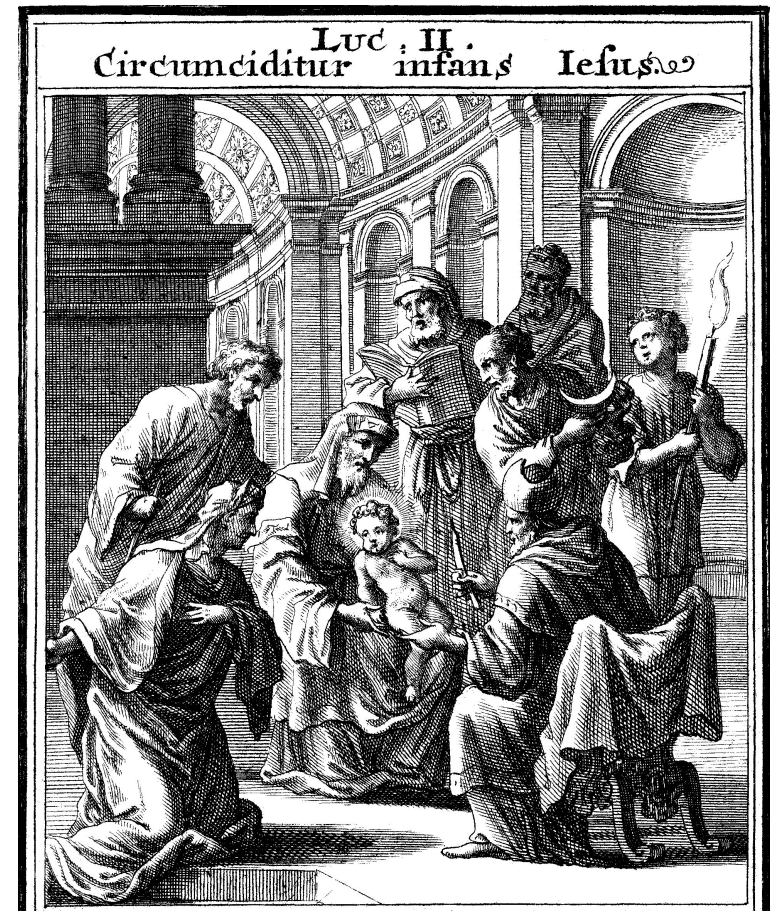
Galatians 3:23-29 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. 24 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the Law. 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the Promise.

Gospel

Luke 2:21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, He was named Jesus, the Name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.



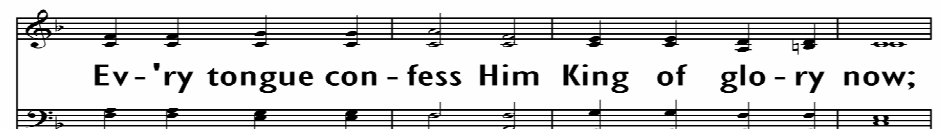
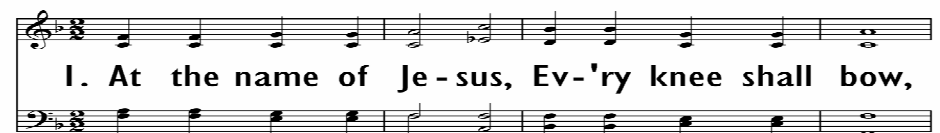
Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA
Eve of the New Year & Circumcision & Name of Jesus
December 31st, 2015  7:00 pm



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Luke 2:21
Complying with Old Testament Law, Baby Jesus is circumcised in the Temple.

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=1506>



OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.osllakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

* A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 * Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

December 31st, 2015 New Year's EVE ✠ Name of Jesus

TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area or Our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before Communing. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding.

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP Printed in red TLH hymnal starting at p.15

Service		
Opening Hymn	123 (8v)	Our God, Our Help In Ages Past
Hymn of the Day	114 (6v)	Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love
Offertory Verse	644 (1v)	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Distribution Hymn	110 (6v)	Across the Sky the Shades of Night
Closing Hymn	118 (4v)	Father Let Me Dedicate All This Year 2U

PROPERs for the New Year, Name of Jesus (8 Days) ✠ DEC-31/JAN-1

INTROIT O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your Name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. What is man that You art mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer, Your name is from everlasting. ...from Psalm 93

COLLECT O Lord God, for our sakes You made Your blessed Son, our Savior, subject to the Law, and caused Him to endure the Circumcision of the flesh, grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit, that our hearts may be pure from all sinful desires and lusts; through the same, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever,
C: ♪ A - - men.

GRADUAL **C: Alleluia!** All the ends of the earth have seen the Salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth. The Lord has made known His Salvation, His Righteousness He has openly shown in the sight of the heathen. Alleluia! Alleluia! God, who at sundry times and in diverse ways spoke in times past by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son. Alleluia! ...from Psalm 110

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T. **Isaiah 55:1-13** "Come; See, Hear, Eat & Drink." says the LORD.

Epi. **Galatians 3:23-29** We are all *one* in Christ, sons and daughters of God.

Gos. **Luke 2:21** The 8-day Christ-Child is Circumcised and Named.



Service of Preparation ✠ Holy Communion ✠ TLH p.15



WELCOME ~ NEW YEAR'S EVE 2014 - "Name of JESUS" (& Circumcision)

After the **OPENING HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" TLH #123**

The INVOCATION (Congregation please rise.)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: ♪ Amen.

The CONFESSION OF SINS (New Year's Special Corporate Confession)

Use **CORPORATE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** (Use instead of p.16 top)

P: I now ask you, in the presence of God, Who searches the heart:

*Do you sincerely **confess** that you have sinned against God and deserve His wrath and punishment?*

C: I do so confess.

*P: Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." / Do you heartily **repent** of all your sins committed in thought, word and deed?*

C: I do repent.

*P: Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite hear; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others. / Do you sincerely **believe** that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?*

C: I do so believe.

*P: Truly you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should **not** perish, but have everlasting life. / Do you **promise** that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?*

C: I do so promise.

P: Truly you should promise, for Christ our Lord says: "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." / Finally, Do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

C: I do so believe.

P: Truly you should believe, for Christ our Lord says: "Whoever hears you, hears Me" and "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them."

The ABSOLUTION

P: Upon this your confession, By the authority of God and my holy office I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. May He Who has begun the good work in you perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

The INTROIT (= Entrance. TLH p.16 – Service continues as usual)

Sunday 1/3 Christmas-2 (W/L.S. p.15) TLH Hymn #s 98 343.1-4; 7 315 136

CIRCUMCISION(NEW-YEAR) Luke 2:21 "NAME OF JESUS" 12.31.15 OSL

In the NAME of the Father and of JESUS and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TEXT: (Lk 2:21) *On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.*

INTRODUCTION History is written **in the details**. The Christmas narrative we heard last week comes to us straight from Luke's historically precise pen, chock full of details - Joseph and Mary, a tax census of Caesar Augustus when Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Bethlehem and the crowded inn and the stable. An angel preaching and heavenly choirs singing "Glory to God in the highest." Shepherds hearing and seeing and telling. All of it focused on that little newborn baby lying in the manger.

If you listened carefully to that familiar narrative, your ears would have caught the historian's detail. **No one but Mary and Joseph knew** the baby's Name. And they weren't telling. Luke withholds the information until today's Gospel verse. For seven days, He's simply Mary's first-born, a baby boy, lying in a manger. For the name, you have to wait another week until today and our one verse Gospel for the **8th day of Christmas, January (1st or 2nd?), the Circumcision and Name of Jesus**.

The custom in Jesus' day was to name the boy on the day of his circumcision, the 8th day of his life. That was God's commandment given to Abraham and established through Moses, *"as a sign of the covenant between Me and you."* The name part was a little custom added later. Nice touch - God claims you and names you. Why not the 7th day or the 17th year when the boy could make up his own mind and choose for himself? That's not the way it works with the Lord. You don't make Him your Lord; He declares Himself to be your Lord and places His mark of ownership on you. You don't choose and claim Him; He chooses and claims you.

Infant circumcision was Jehovah's unique sign for His Israel. Other nations had the sign, but it was usually at puberty, a right of passage into adult manhood. But this was a **sign of the covenant, God's promise**, that through the seed of Abraham, all nations of the world would be blessed by a Savior, the Christ to come. Jesus too, then receives the sign of the covenant. Again, the mystery of the Incarnation is there for us to ponder: **the Lord of all receives circumcision on behalf of all.**

Circumcision declared you to be a "Son of the Covenant." **Jesus is the ultimate "Son of the Covenant,"** whose **perfect** obedience in life and death fulfills the Old Covenant (the **Law**), Whose Blood shed on the Cross brings and seals a totally "New Covenant," (the **Gospel**) the One of Whom the prophet Jeremiah spoke: *"I will forgive their iniquities and remember their sins no more."*

We might be tempted to discard all of this as that "crude, bloody, primitive religion" of the OT. That would be **a grave error** on our part. In his letter to the **Colossians**, the **Apostle Paul** writes this intriguing sentence: *"For in Him (that is, in Christ), the whole fullness of the Deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the Head of all rule and authority."* In other words, in Christ, you have it all - the fullness of God and the fullness of your life. **Everything**. Then he goes on to say this: *"In Him (that is, in Christ) you were also circumcised with a*

circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of the Christ."

What that means is that Christ's Circumcision is **also your circumcision**. In Him, not in yourselves and not in your flesh, but in Jesus and His flesh, you were circumcised in His circumcision. Here's the point of it all: In Christ you are a **"perfect Jew"** who can and does fulfill the entire Law of Moses. You are a faithful, perfect "son of the covenant." Even if you're female, for "in Christ," there is **neither male nor female**, but you are all "sons" and therefore all "heirs."

Let's put that into somewhat more practical terms. You and I are natural born sinners, children of Adam. No news there. We are hell-bent on sinning. Self-centered, wanting to be gods, struggling to be in control. Oh, we'll make some New Year's **resolutions to try and be better people this year**, but that lasts about as long as last year's diet and exercise program. **Good intentions** but not much follow-through. Now that's not to say we shouldn't try. We should daily drown the old Adam in Baptism. We should daily struggle against the lusts of the sinful nature. We should **daily put off the old person in Adam and put on the new person in (the Name of) Christ**. But nothing we do is going to achieve that perfection God requires under the Law when He says *"Be holy for I, Jehovah, your God am holy."* *"Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect."*

Soooo, How's **your** perfection and holiness lately? It's not even one day into the new year, so how bad can it be? Or were you actually glad when they said tonight, *"Let us go to the house of the Lord?"* How do you think it's going to go with your worship, your honoring of God's Name and Word, your lusts, your greed, your idolatries, your love of neighbor (especially those "neighbors" you didn't pick)? What about gossip, envy, strife, and that most American of all sins - coveting (yes, wanting all that stuff you didn't get last week and more of it)?

It's NOT there, Is it(?) That perfection, that holiness we must have to deal with God?

But, thanks be to God, there **is a flip side** to this demand for holiness and perfection, one that isn't intuitively obvious, and that the religions of the world all miss. God gives out for free what He demands in His Law. God's people are holy, because God is holy. They are perfect, because He is perfect. They are righteous, because He is righteous. They are all these things not because they've managed to pull off the impossible, but because God grants it all for Jesus' sake. He imputes it, reckons it, chalks it up to their account. He takes what is Jesus', and makes it yours in Jesus.

Here lies the significance of this day of Jesus' Circumcision. Jesus does the Law perfectly, every Commandment, and His perfection is yours by grace through faith for Jesus' sake. He bears the pain, the suffering, the blood the Law demands of the substitute, the vicarious victim. And you receive forgiveness, life, and salvation by grace through faith for Jesus' sake. You are all sons of the covenant, heirs of life, true offspring of Abraham, all thanks to this **8 day old Jehovah in the flesh** who bears the sign of God's promise. You might put it this way: ***You are all perfect Jews in Jesus, the one perfect Jew who kept the Torah down its smallest mark and letter.***

With the sign in the Flesh, also comes the Name. Now on *His* Eighth Day, **Mary's Child receives the Name spoken by the angel - "JESUS."**

Jesus is a perfectly ordinary human Name. Any carpenter or carpenter's son from Nazareth might have the name Jesus. It's the same as the name Joshua (Isaiah). It means "*Jehovah is Salvation*" or "*Jehovah saves.*" Jesus literally "does" what His Name says. He actually is Jehovah in the Flesh **come to save**, embracing our humanity, revealing the Deity. The infinite eternal Word has come to dwell with us Bodily, in human Flesh and Blood. The mysterious Name of Jehovah has taken on a human Face and a human Name, **the Name Jesus**.

This is the Name that **causes controversy, scandal, offense**. This is the Name that causes kings to tremble and judges to judge and legislatures to legislate. This is the Name that may not be uttered in the public square lest unbelievers be offended. No other Name causes such a stir.

This is **the only Name there is under Heaven, put on our lips, by which we are saved**. This is the Name that is above every name of God. Higher even than the Name Jehovah (or Jehovah, as those seriously mistaken folks knocking at your door are witnesses to), this is Jehovah come to embrace fallen humanity, come to be with us. It is the Name that causes devils to flee, the Name by which prayer is heard, the Name by which God in the flesh is known, the name by which we are saved. It doesn't get any greater than the humble name Jesus: **JEHOVAH in Flesh come to save us**.

You were **washed, sanctified** (made holy), **justified** (declared righteous), in the Name of Jesus. You are gathered here, *in the Name of Jesus*, with the promise that where two or three are gathered in His Name He will be present with them to forgive and to raise them up give them eternal life - **all in His Name**.

This is the **Name to which every knee will one day bow**, and every tongue will one day confess "Jesus Christ is Lord," either with joy or sorrow, either as good news or bad, either to salvation in faith or to condemnation in unbelief. There's no neutral ground when it comes to the Name Jesus. **Even to confess the Name of Jesus is itself a gift**, for no one who has the Spirit can deny Jesus and say "Jesus be cursed" and no one can confess "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION Today we are given to ponder this great and wonderful mystery: An eight-day old child bears the **Name Jesus in all its fullness**. Jehovah in the Flesh come to save. This little Child bears the Law for you, sheds His Blood and His tears for you. This little child, so weak and helpless and vulnerable, so ordinary, like any other baby boy born in Israel is your Maker, your Redeemer, your Lord and your Christ. **What happens to Him, also happens to you in Him, in His Name. HE IS your** Perfection, **your** Holiness, **your** Atonement from sin, **your** Resurrection from the dead, **your** Life (eternal). Today Christmas has a Name on which to hang your faith – and **that Name is J.E.S.U.S!**

The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us. Alleluia! We have seen His Glory, Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia! No one has ever seen God; but the only God, Who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known. Alleluia! IJ'N, Amen. SDG

Possible Prayer of Church ✧ New Year's Eve, Name of Jesus December 31st
Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible Brief silence)

Lord God, we praise You for sending Your Son in our flesh to fulfill the Law on our behalf. We thank You that although we sin much, He is our righteousness and peace. Thank You for the countless blessings You have given this past year — for the whole of our lives, our well-being and that You do not withhold from us Your saving Word. Teach us to number our days so that the blessings and distractions of this life never turn our hearts from You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Eternal God, You have been our dwelling place in every generation, but our years pass quickly. As this year draws to a close, prepare our hearts for Your Son's return. Forgive the sins of this past year — those we know and those unknown to us. Heal any division in our families, friendships and in this church, and keep us faithful to Christ our Lord in the coming year, repentant of our sins and confident in His mercy and truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Gracious Father, calm the hearts of those who look to the future with foreboding or fear, rather than with confidence and hope. For all who face illness, pain and suffering, and those to whom death draws near, give the peace that only You can give. *[We pray especially for _____.]*

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daughter)	Health. Pray for healing and peace
David Divine	(Vivian's grandson, serves USArmy in AK)	Health - bloodclots
Rex Headapohl	(Carol)	Rex recovering at home from fall and bump on head
Elma & Jim Hendricks		Health – both E&J have been ill (sore throats) lately
Linda Kryszak		Linda has a biopsy scheduled. Pray for speedy recovery
Dee Kurczewski	(David)	Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps
Mary, Pam & Karen		Friends & family of DonnaM, all battling health issues
Richard Sawyer	(Jon's dad)	Richard had a (possibly fatal) stroke yesterday
Vivian Temple	(Tom)	Vivian improving steadily at home - TTL. Tom helps
Janice Thomas		Janice' cancer responding to chemo's. Has a pulmonary clot
James Vanesky & Delores		Jim back at home. Also pray for Delores' health

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, bless this land in the New Year. Give us honest work, effective education and leaders of good character. Save us from violence and discord, bringing a common purpose and harmony where there is division. As we elect another president and other officials, guide us to make wise decisions and establish policies and laws that serve the common good. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord Jesus, by Your Incarnation You joined divinity to humanity and humanity to divinity. Keep far from us all doubts about You, knowing that as the God-Man You have won our salvation. Give us faith in Your promises, and make us worthy, through simple faith, to eat and drink Your Body and Blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen. Then, Lord's Supper p.24.**