

Historic Scripture Lessons for ✠ New Year, Name of Jesus  
Old Testament (Sermon Text)

**Isaiah 30:(8-14)15-17 NIV** (8 Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness. 9 These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. 10 They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. 11 Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!" 12 Therefore, this is what the Holy One of Israel says: "Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit, 13 this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant. 14 It will break in pieces like pottery, shattered so mercilessly that among its pieces not a fragment will be found for taking coals from a hearth or scooping water out of a cistern.") ... **Isaiah 30:15-17 15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your Salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.** 16 You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore your pursuers will be swift! 17 A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill."

**Epistle**

**Romans 8:31b-39**

If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died - more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

**Gospel**

**Luke 12:35-40**

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. 38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. 39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
Eve of the New Year ✠ *The Old Year Now Must Pass Away*  
December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016  7:00 pm



*Historic Church Year Symbol Set for New Year/Name of Jesus: Luke 2:21  
On the 8<sup>th</sup> day the Baby was taken to be circumcised and given the Name Jesus.*

Image courtesy of the Lutheran Synod Publishing <https://lutheransynodpublishing.com>

**OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL**

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

✘ A.R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✘ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 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. God bless your Worship.

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** Printed here(Confession) then in TLHymnal p.16

Service		
Opening Hymn	123 (8v)	Our God, Our Help In Ages Past
Hymn of the Day	124 (4v)	O LORD, Our Father, Thanks to Thee
Offertory Verse	644 (1v)	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Distribution Hymn	110 (6v)	Across the Sky the Shades of Night
Closing Hymn	552 (8v)	<i>Sing vv1-2,7-8</i> Abide With Me! Fast Falls

**Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Isaiah 55:1-13	Isaiah 61:1-11	Micah 4:1-8	Isaiah 56:1-8	Isaiah 12:1-6	Isa. 60:1-6
Luke 2:21	Matt .2:16-18	Matt. 2:19-23	Matt. 3:1-12	Luke 3:1-9	Matt.2:1-12

**PROPERs for the Eve of the New Year**  **DEC-31<sup>ST</sup>, 2016**

**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** 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 30: 15-17** Your Salvation is rest and repentance. Don't flee it.

Epi. **Romans 8:31b-39** If God is for us who can be against us(?).

Gos. **Luke 12:35-40** Be ready, prepared for your Master (Jesus') return.

**WELCOME ~ NEW YEAR'S EVE 2016 "Prepare for New Year AND a New Age"**

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.*

**CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SINS** (New Year's Corporate Confession)

*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 – Communion Service continues as usual)

*Sunday 1/1 NewYear-Jesus'Name (W/L.S. p.15) #s 126 114 123.1,4 120 118*

## CIRCUMCISION/NY Isaiah 30:8-15 "READY FOR NEW YEAR" 12.31.16 OSL

*Grace be to you and Peace from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear fellow redeemed in Christ:*

1. Tonight, the year 2016 draws to a close. In just a few short hours it will be history. This year, as it seems every year, ends with a burst of activity. The end of November brought Thanksgiving and then Advent and it's Christmas preparations. The end of December brought Christmas and all its celebrations. Now, barely a week after Christmas comes New Year's Eve, and tomorrow, a brand New Year. With all the excitement of all these holidays with their decorations and company at our homes and vacations and parties and so many presents to enjoy - with all this going on, it's easy at times to **lose sight of the Word of God in our lives.**

2. During **Isaiah's lifetime, the people of Jerusalem and Judah** had lost sight of God's Word in their lives. And not just at the busy, hectic times of year, but **all the time.** So God sent Isaiah a message for his people. A message, by the way, that God sends to us tonight, as well.

**[Isaiah 30:8-11]** *Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness. These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. they say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right. Tell us pleasing things, prophesy illusions. Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel.*

3. **We, too are a rebellious people.** We are deceitful children of God, unwilling to listen his instruction. We don't want to see the truth of the visions given to God's seers. We don't long for the words of the prophets which tell us the things that are right in the eyes of God. Together, with Judah and all Jerusalem, we say instead,

**[Isaiah 30:10b-11]** *Tell us **pleasant things, prophesy illusions ... stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel.***

4. It's a difficult thing, to **be confronted with our sinfulness** by the Holy One of Israel. Especially on a night like tonight, when so many, maybe even some you know, will revel in the filth of sin, using the end of the year as an excuse to get drunk or act on sinful lusts and passions or ignore responsibilities to family and loved ones. On a large scale that will indeed happen tonight; that and even more. But maybe that's not your plan. Maybe you prefer to stay home, and sit **secure in your spiritual superiority** over all the sinful swine out causing havoc this evening. Whatever our plans for this evening, **God has a word for us sinners.**

**[Isaiah 30:12-14]** *Therefore, this is what the Holy One of Israel says: Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit, this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant. It will break in pieces like potter shattered so mercilessly that among its pieces not a fragment will be ground for taking coals from a heart or scooping water out of a cistern.*

5. In our sinfulness, we do reject the message to fear, love and trust in God so that we lead holy lives. Our sin builds and builds. It becomes a high wall, cracked and bulging, threatening to fall down upon us all the time. It will not hold up forever. A life of partying will eventually crash down around you. A life of haughty spiritual superiority will finally come crumbling down as well. Maybe not tonight, maybe not even next year, but our sinful lives will all turn to dust. One day, we will die, and even our bodies will turn to dust. Dust from which nothing can be salvaged. Once the wall of death has come crashing down, there is indeed no way to gather up all the pieces and put everything back together again.

6. We cannot live our lives in sin, whether it's New Year's Eve or any other day. Instead, we must listen to the message of the LORD and learn from his instruction. We must do what we're doing here tonight, gathered around the Word of God, and in so doing, we will hear God's plan for us this evening, and for every evening of our lives.

**[Isaiah 30:15a]** *This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel says: "In repentance and rest is your Salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength."*

It's the same message God sends through **King David** who declares in **[Psalm 62:1]** ***My soul finds rest in God alone, my Salvation comes from Him.***

Your rest **cannot be found** in a party or a bottle or a bed with someone else. Your salvation will **not be present** in thoughts of superiority because you do not party. Neither rest nor Salvation can be found in a life surrounded by walls of sin and sinful behavior. And so God calls on us to repent; to come to Him in quietness and trust and confess our sins. To enter into His presence and lay our sins at the feet of Jesus, the true source of our rest and Salvation. As we come before Jesus in quietness and trust, we will find **true rest and Salvation** for our bodies and souls. Because in Jesus, and only in Jesus is there forgiveness for our sins. As the angel told St. Joseph,

**[Matthew 1:21b]** *... You are to give him the **Name Jesus**, because He will save His people from their sins.*

7. **Jesus saves us from our rebellion against God.** Jesus saves us from our deceitful dealings with other people. Jesus saves us from our sin of losing sight of God during these hectic, but holy times of year. Jesus gives us rest from the building up walls of sin around us; walls the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh would love to have us build. Jesus saves us from all that. Jesus rescues us from all that sin and brings us close to his side. So close, that **St. Paul** can say,

**[Epistle for NY-Eve: Romans 8:37-39]** *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

8. Held so close to Christ, knowing **He is our Immanuel, our God Who is with us all the time**, we do not live a life of revelry in sin as the godless pagans among us do. Rather, as God's redeemed people, made holy by the precious blood of our Savior shed on the Cross, we live a life of watchfulness, instead. Tonight, we watch for the coming of the New Year, **but more important, we watch for the coming of the Lord**. We live dressed and ready for service for our Savior, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when He comes and knocks we can immediately open the door for Him. Because we know it will be good for us when the Master comes and finds us ready, even if He does come in the second or third watch of the night. We watch, and prepare ourselves by heartfelt listening to His own Words - of the prophets and apostles of God. **We dare not lose our focus on the Word of God**, at this time of year or any other. So we take to heart the message of the Holy One of Israel, **even when his words confront us with our sins**. By doing so, the Holy Spirit leads us to repentance, and a return to the Lord our God in consecrated quietness and trust. So tonight, we watch in quietness and trusting strength, confident that through repentance and the refreshing rest of God, we will see our Salvation in Jesus Christ.

**CONCLUSION** Christ tells us today to prepare for the coming New Year: by making ourselves ready for *His* coming, by tidying up the houses that are our souls so that **we can welcome Him with joy** when He comes, because (Who knows?) 2017 may bring the day of His **glorious appearing**.

So enjoy the party this evening. Watch the fireworks on television. Stay up late, count down the final seconds as 2016 passes forever into history and 2017 begins. Enjoy all the festivities that mark the end of this year and the beginning of the new.

But do not forget on this final day of 2016, to **spend some time in prayer to God** before the New Year begins. Commit your past year to Him. Trust in His mercy to forgive your sins of the past 12 months. And pray that He would grant you grace to make your soul ready for Christ's appearing on the Last Day.

And then (you can) Go to bed tonight **confident in the everlasting mercy of God in Christ Jesus**: for the year to come **and for all eternity**.

God grant it for **Jesus' sake. In His most Holy Name, Amen.**

**BLESSING** *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to Life Everlasting. Amen.*

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL   
 Eve of the New Year  *Old Year Now Must Pass Away*  
 December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016  7:00 pm



From "Illustrations of Gospel Stories" Jerome Nadal – Luke 2:21  
**Circumcision and Naming of Jesus: On the Eighth Day after Jesus' Birth.**

Image courtesy of the Biblical and Religious Art Collection, <http://catholic-resources.org/Nadal/005.jpg>