

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
New Year's Eve



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*

*Please Stand*

## **INVOCATION**

**M:** We close this year as we began it - in the name of the Father, and of the Son (†), and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**M:** As we look back on 2021, we know that the Lord was with us always, no matter what we did. And yet, we think of all the times that we failed Him in thought, word, and deed.

**C:** **Father, we have sinned in so many ways. As we think of the past year, we cannot help but think of all the times we idolized money or possessions, used Your name in vain, despised Your Word by not reading, hearing, and learning it, dishonored our elders and others You have placed in authority, hated our neighbor, lusted, took something not ours, gossiped when we heard some news, and coveted what others had.**

**We have often thought of our sins too lightly. We have often looked at the speck in our neighbor's eye while missing the plank in our own. Against You, Lord, have we sinned and have done what is evil in Your sight. We ask that for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and not because of anything we have done, that You grant us forgiveness.**

**M:** How many are the sins that we have committed...and yet, how great is the love that the Father lavishes on us. His Son, Jesus Christ, took the punishment of every single one of our sins on Himself so that we are now called children of God! As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. This is what God tells us in His Holy Word.

**C:** **Praise the Lord! His mercies are new every morning!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Dear Lord, we thank You for the forgiveness You assure us of every day on the pages of Your Word. We ask that this forgiveness now empowers us to live lives that give You glory, in all we do, in this year and for years to come.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

**RESOLUTION #5.....SPEND MORE TIME WITH FAMILY**

*The Bible has a lot to say about good family relationships. God has given us family to take care of each other, show love to one another, and to encourage each other in the ways of the Lord. The same truths can also apply to our church family.*

I Timothy 5:1-5; 8

1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. 3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Hebrews 10:19-25

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**RESOLUTION #4.....MANAGE GOD’S RESOURCES BETTER**

*Everything that we have has been given to us from God. When we recognize that we are merely stewards of God’s resources (Psalm 24:1), we approach our time, talents, and treasures in a God-pleasing way. Then we strive to use them to give God glory.*

Proverbs 11:25

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

I Timothy 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Matthew 25:19-21

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ 21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

***HYMN: GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING***

***749***

**RESOLUTION #3.....TAKE CARE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S TEMPLE**

*I Corinthians 6:19 calls our bodies, "temples of the Holy Spirit." This New Year's resolution deals with upholding God's gift of life and caring for those temples.*

Psalm 139:13-16

13For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Proverbs 23:20

Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat.

3 John 2-4

2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

I Timothy 4:8

8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

***HYMN: FORTH IN YOUR NAME, O LORD, I GO***

***739***

**RESOLUTION #2.....GET INTO THE WORD**

*God graciously has preserved for us His Old and New Testaments to share with us what we need to know for salvation (John 20:31). Through the Word, the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens faith and guides us in our lives of holy living.*

Luke 11:28

Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it.

Psalms 119:105,16

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.  
I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Deuteronomy 11:18-20

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Acts 17:11

11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

**HYMN: SPEAK, O LORD**

**633**

**RESOLUTION #1.....REMEMBER THE LORD!**

*We need the psalmist's warning: "Though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them" (Psalm 62:10). May God help up to always set our hearts on him.*

**Psalm 77**

I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered you, O God, and I groaned; I mused, and my spirit grew faint.

You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. My heart mused and my spirit inquired: "Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"

Then I thought, "To this I will appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High." I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds. Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. The clouds poured down water, the skies resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth. Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

***HYMN: LET ME BE YOURS FOREVER***

***715***

**Sermon on Resolution Two**

*Please Stand*

*Liturgy continues on page 162*

### **CLOSE COMMUNION**

We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today.

Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (I Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper here at Abiding Word and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.

If you have any questions about this or would like to commune at Abiding Word in the future, please talk to Pastor Jacobs after worship this evening. He would love to sit down with you on your timetable and at your convenience and talk about these important matters.

***HYMN: ACROSS THE SKY THE SHADES OF NIGHT***

***367***