

# New Year's Eve Service

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St. John's Lutheran Church

December 31, 2024

"A Service of Praise at the Changing of the Year"

Red Bud, Illinois

PRELUDE: "Across the Sky the Shades of Night" arranged by Johann Pachelbel

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN: 899 "Across the Sky the Shades of Night"



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are  
2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -  
3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your  
4 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your  
5 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may



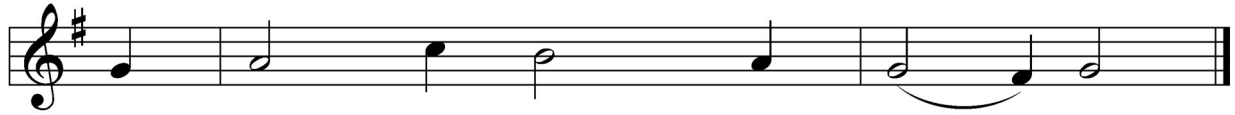
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In  
dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And  
mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our  
car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past  
guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last  
all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this  
grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our  
death and all de - spair - ing. At our life's end, Lord,  
mer - cy walk be - side us Un - til at last our



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,  
com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear  
strength and stay In man - y a dark and drea - ry day  
as Your own, Bring us with them a - round Your throne,  
ran - somed life Is safe from per - il, toil, and strife



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.  
And crown us with Your bless - ing.  
Of sor - row and re - vers - es.  
The joys of heav - en shar - ing.  
When heav'n it - self shall hide us.

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP:** (selections from Psalm 90) *(please stand, if you are able)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place

C: **throughout all generations.**

P: Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world,

C: **from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

P: You turn men back to dust,

C: **saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."**

P: For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day that has just gone by,

C: **or like a watch in the night.**

P: The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength;

C: **yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.**

P: Teach us to number our days aright,

C: **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

P: Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love,

C: **that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

P: Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us,

C: **for as many years as we have seen trouble.**

P: May Your deeds be shown to Your servants,

C: **Your splendor to their children.**

P: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;

C: **establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.**

**ALL: 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.**

**THE SALUATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

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

P: Let us pray: Let us pray: O Lord God, heavenly Father, because You sent Your only begotten Son to this world for our salvation and gave Him the name Jesus, grant that we

may begin the new year trusting in His saving name and live all our days in His service to the praise and glory of His holy name;

**C: in the name of Jesus who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

**Isaiah 30: 15-17**

<sup>15</sup>For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,

“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling, <sup>16</sup>and you said,

“No! We will flee upon horses”;

therefore you shall flee away;

and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

<sup>17</sup>A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;

at the threat of five you shall flee,

till you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,

like a signal on a hill.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE EPISTLE READING:**

**Romans 8: 31b-39**

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE GRADUAL:**

**Psalms 90: 12, 14**

P: Teach us to number our days

**C: that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

P: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,

**C: that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

**THE GOSPEL READING:** *(please stand if you are able)*

**Luke 12: 35-40**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**OUR NEW YEAR’S PROFESSION OF FAITH:** *(spoken in unison)*

**I believe in God the Father almighty, who made heaven, earth and all things, and who provides and cares for His creation every day of every year.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, whose miraculous birth, painful death, and glorious resurrection from the dead make us new and redeemed creatures through faith in Him and offer to us the hope of everlasting life.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit who gives us new life every day through the water of our baptism and makes us part of the Holy Christian Church here in time and also in the timeless world to come. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: 733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

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

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

**SERMON: Endings & Beginnings**

**OFFERTORY: 358 “From Heaven Above to Earth I come” (vs. 1 & 15)**

1 “From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:

15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:** *(please stand if you are able)*

P: As we reflect on the past year, we know that we have done wrong, O God.

**C: Against You only have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, O Lord.**

P: As we look upon all of our deeds we confess that we have sinned and fallen short of Your glory, O God.

**C: Hide Your face from our sins and blot out our iniquities, O Lord.**

P: As we come to the beginning of a new year, we sincerely repent of the sins we have committed, O God.

**C: Do not cast us from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from us, O Lord.**

P: For this new year we look to Your mercy and ask for Your forgiveness, O God.

**C: Cleanse us with hyssop and we will be clean; wash us and we will be whiter than snow, O Lord.**

P: Strengthen our faith to do Your will and walk in Your ways this coming year, O God.

**C: Create in us a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us, O Lord.**

**GOD’S FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS:**

P: Our heavenly Father, in His boundless mercy, has heard our cries of helplessness in sin and has sent to us a Deliverer, His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from eternal death. In His place and by His command, as a called and ordained servant of His Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

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.**

P: It is good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord God, Almighty Father, especially that You humbled Yourself and took up our human nature in Your only Son, through whom You created the universe and who is the Light of the world and at whose cradle we bow and worship; therefore with the

Christmas angels and all Your people we laud and magnify Your glorious name,  
evermore praising You and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heaven and earth with full acclaim  
shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the  
Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *(sung to the tune of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")*

**Our Fa-ther, Lord on heav'ns high throne Most ho-ly be Your name.**

**Your king-dom come. Your will be done**

**On earth—in heav'n the same. Give us this day the food we need; For-giv-en may we be;**

**In-to temp-ta-tion do not lead; From e-vil set us free.**

**Yours is the king-dom; un-to You In grate-ful love we bow;**

**And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view Your might-y pres-ence now.**

**The glo-ry Yours; Your praise be sung By an-gel hosts and men**

**In ev'-ry land, by ev'-ry tongue For-ev-er-more! A-men.**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

**P: .....The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: And also with you.**  
*(please be seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:** *(please be seated)*

**390 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"**



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,  
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,  
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?  
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

**878 "Abide with Me"**



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,  
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;  
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.  
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.  
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

**5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
 Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
 I triumph still if Thou abide with me!**

**6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

**886 "The Day Thou Gavest"**



1 The day Thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed,  
 2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, un - sleep - ing  
 3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land  
 4 The sun, that bids us rest, is wak - ing  
 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall nev - er,



The dark - ness falls at Thy be - hest;  
 While earth rolls on - ward in - to light,  
 The dawn leads on an - oth - er day,  
 Thy saints be - neath the west - ern skies,  
 Like earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way;



To Thee our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed,  
 Through all the world her watch is keep - ing,  
 The voice of prayer is nev - er si - lent,  
 And hour by hour, as day is break - ing,  
 Thy king - dom stands and grows for - ev - er,



Thy praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.  
 And nev - er rests by day or night.  
 Nor dies the strain of praise a - way.  
 Fresh hymns of thank - ful praise a - rise.  
 Till all Thy crea - tures own Thy sway.

**PRAYER AT THE CHANGE OF THE YEAR:** *(please stand if you are able)*

**P:** O Lord God, You have guided us through this past year by Your grace. Your mercies were new to us every day. You have strengthened us in faith through Your Word and Sacraments. As we begin a new year of life in Your name, we ask for Your continued blessings upon us and all we do. By the power of Your Holy Spirit enable us to use our lives as a witness for Your glory;

**C:** **through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE BENEDICTION:**

**P:** May the God of all grace, the Father, the (+) Son and the Holy Spirit keep you as His redeemed people every day of this new year.

**C:** **Amen. Fill our lives this new year, O Triune God! Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: 887 “Now the Light Has Gone Away”**

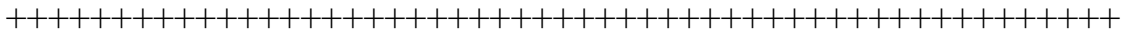


1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,  
 2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;  
 3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;  
 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.  
 5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.  
 Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.  
 O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.  
 All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!  
 Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.





**Serving Us in Worship This Evening**

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Brian Nowak

Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak Lector: DCE Bill Becker

Acolytes: Lucy Kuehn

Greeters: Kim & Addison Breier

**WELCOME TO St. John's Lutheran Church!**

We are especially happy that we have visitors with us today. St. John's Lutheran is a congregation which follows the historic order of Christian worship. Even if you do not have a Lutheran background, you may recognize many of the elements of worship from your own tradition. During the offering, please sign the black friendship register at the end of the pew. We ask our guests to please fill out the red side of the card marked "Guests" in the attendance book and give it to an usher. We invite you to worship with us again very soon.

**WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION:**

In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The individual cups of white wine in the center of the cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this. Please place a finger to your lips if you prefer an individual cup.

**REMAINING SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES:**

Tomorrow, January 1, 2025, 10 a.m., New Year's Day Matins Service

**SCHOOL RESUMES:**

Our school resumes for the third quarter on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 8:05 a.m.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:**

**Luke 2:21 – "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."** So how was your 2024? What are you looking forward to (with either joy or dread) in 2025? No matter our joys or our sorrows, this is certain: last year and next year belong to Jesus. And His very name is a comfort to us, for He is called Jesus because He will save His people from their sins, as the angel said. As you begin a new year, rest in that knowledge.

**WE WISH YOU A JOYOUS NEW YEAR  
UNDER GOD'S BLESSINGS!**

from Pastor Brian, Heather and the Nowak family,  
from Pastor Mark Winkelmann & family,  
and Pastor Art Eichhorn & family



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

***As the Old Year Ends...***

***We Thank God for  
His Goodness in the Past.***

**AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS...**

**We Ask God to  
Bless Us in the Future.**

*Our Lord Has and Will  
Continue to Bless Us  
Through His Son,  
Our Savior Jesus Christ.*