

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Red Bud, Illinois

New Year's Eve
December 31, 2023

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S! At the end of one year and the beginning of another our God calls us to put our trust in Him for our lives. We gather together to praise the great name of Jesus Christ who is our Savior for every year of our lives.

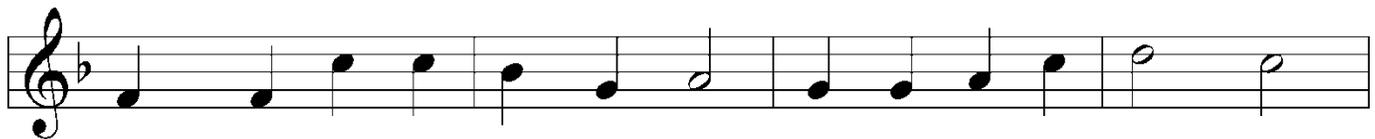
WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION THIS EVENING: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. As this sacrament is a sign of our common confession of the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table all those who are confirmed members of congregations of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The cups of white wine in the center of the tray are non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this option. Please place your finger to your lips if you would like an individual cup.

“A Service of Praise at the Changing of the Year”

THE PRELUDE: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” *arr. by P. Soulek*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to joyful worship.

OPENING HYMN: 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 - jice, 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.

(please stand if you are able)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: (selections from Psalm 90)

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

Congregation: 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 SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

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

P: 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 51:1-6

¹ "Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; ² look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. ³ The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; He will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

⁴ *"Listen to Me, My people; hear Me, My nation: The law will go out from Me; My justice will become a light to the nations. ⁵ My righteousness draws near speedily, My salvation is on the way, and My arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to Me and wait in hope for My arm. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But My salvation will last forever, My righteousness will never fail."*

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

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1st Peter 1:22-25

²²*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

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

THE GRADUAL:

P: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;

P: The Lord has made known His salvation;

C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶*Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.*

⁷*So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'*

⁸*"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "*

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

OUR NEW YEAR'S PROFESSION OF FAITH: *(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! Public domain

SERMON:

OFFERTORY:

**An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Ye who sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry, Now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth.
 Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship; Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.
 Shep-herds in the field a-bid-ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now re-sid-ing, Yon-der shines the In-fant Light.
 Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship; Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.**

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 in praise to God. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is good, right and proper for us always to give You thanks, holy Lord and gracious Father, through Jesus Christ, who by His resurrection triumphed over death bringing to us eternal life. Therefore, with all the saints and angels in heaven we glorify Your mighty name, saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (sung to the tune: "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:

362 "O Sing of Christ"

**O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord.
E-ter-nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re-stored.
Up-on our frail hu-man-i-ty God's fin-ger chose to trace
The full-ness of His de-i-ty, The i-con of His grace.**

**What Ad-am lost, none could re-claim, And Par-a-dise was barred
Un-til the sec-ond Ad-am came To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right God sent His on-ly Son;
He came to us as life and light And our re-demp-tion won.**

**He came to that which was His own But He was not re-ceived;
Yet still through Him God's glo-ry shone, And some His name be-lieved.
To those He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a-bove,
Born not of hu-man an-ces-try But born of God in love.**

**Lord Je-sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A-mong us here on earth
As God with us, Em-man-u-el, To bring this ho-ly birth.
Though rich, You will-ing-ly be-came One with our pov-er-ty,
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e-ter-ni-ty!**

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



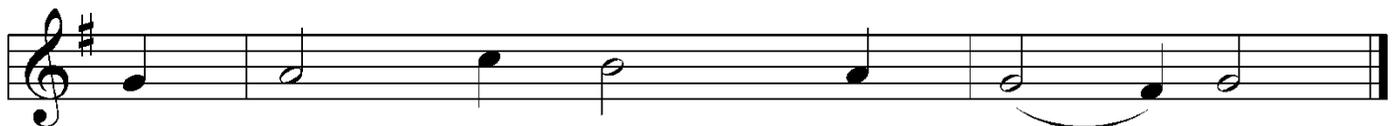
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
 car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past



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,



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,

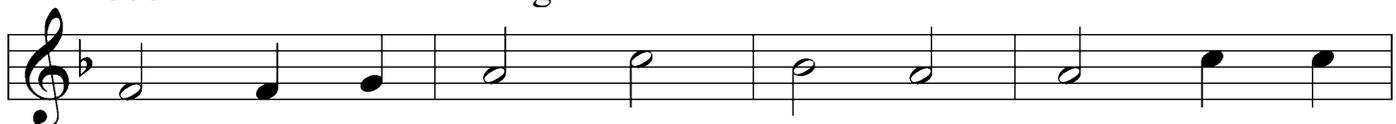


Once more Your love en - treat - ing.
 And crown us with Your bless - ing.
 Of sor - row and re - vers - es.
 The joys of heav - en shar - ing.

5 Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us,
 And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us
 Until at last our ransomed life Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
 When heav'n itself shall hide us.

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880 "Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow"



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
 2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
 3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
 4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
 rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
 star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
 wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
 But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
 And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
 Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
 sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
 be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
 o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.

5 My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely
 From peril guard your heads. Sweet slumbers may He send you
 And bid His hosts attend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

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:

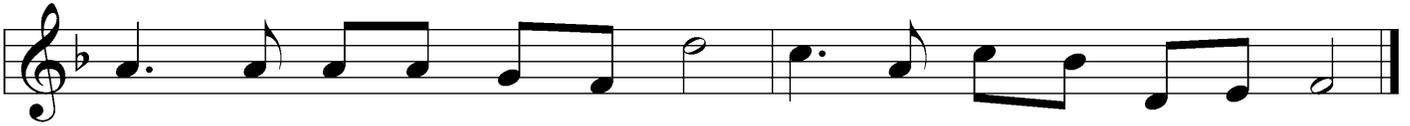
P: May the God of all grace, the Father, the (+) Son and the Holy Spirit keep you as His redeemed people every day of this new year.

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.

POSTLUDE: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" *arranged by C.S. Lange*

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Serving Us in Worship This Evening

Preacher: Pastor Mark Nebel Liturgist: Pastor Brian Nowak
 Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak Acolyte: Kade Liefer
 Greeters: Ron and Donna Burgdorf

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

*Pastor Mark and Cindy Nebel and their family
 Pastor Brian and Heather Nowak and their family*

OUR NEW YEAR'S DAY Matins Service is tomorrow at 10 a.m. It will be a totally different service from this evening.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2024 are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find your box of envelopes please call the church office.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the first quarter of 2024 are available in the entryway.

DAY SCHOOL resumes for the third quarter on Thursday, January 4, at 8:05 a.m.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST is Saturday, January 6, at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the Old Testament book of Proverbs.