

New Year's Eve Service

New Year's Eve
December 31, 2025

Watching with Rejoicing!

St. John's Lutheran Church
Red Bud, Illinois

Although not an official church holiday, New Year's Eve has been, for many centuries, a time for Christian people to gather for worship. The psalmist exclaims: "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1). The changing of the calendar year is a most appropriate time for God's people to bless Him and thank Him for the time of the old year now ending and for the time yet to come in the new year. King David, the psalmist, shares this blessed invitation with us: "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!" (Psalm 34:3). In another of his thoughtfully reflective psalms, David says to the Lord: "But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand" (Psalm 31:14-15a). In our worship this New Year's Eve, we echo the faith-filled expression of King David, joyfully committing our time and commending our times to our gracious and faithful God.

PRELUDE: "Across the Sky, the Shades of Night"

arranged by Johann Pachelbel

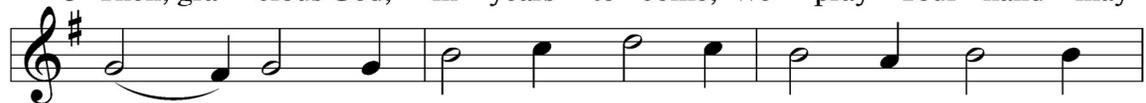
THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN:

"Across the Sky, the Shades of Night" (LSB 899)



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 - ya 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

INTROIT:*Psalm 98:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

C: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P: The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

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.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

HYMN OF PRAISE:*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

1. **For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies: *Refrain***

*Refrain: Christ, our Lord, to You we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

2. **For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow’r,
Sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain***

3. **For Yourself, best gift divine
To the world so freely giv’n;
Agent of God’s grand design,
Peace on earth and joy in heav’n: *Refrain***

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.

C: In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

P: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING:*Isaiah 30:8–17*

(“In quietness and in trust shall be your strength”)

L: And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord; who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter’s vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.” 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, 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. 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.

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

PSALM:*Psalms 90:1–12*

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

C: You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

P: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

C: For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

P: For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

C: Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. 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.

EPISTLE READING: *(God is for us!)*

Romans 8:31b–39

L: 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.

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

VERSE:

Psalm 103:17a

P: Alleluia.

C: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him.

P: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL READING: *(Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.)* *Luke 12:35–40*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: [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.

HYMN:

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (LSB 733)



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!**

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)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

P: The Word became flesh in order that all people might be revealed as God's children. Let us pray for our own parish community, for the church throughout the world, and for everyone, that we may respond wholeheartedly to the appeal of God's love.

In this special hour, we pray for the church, the visible sign of Christ's saving presence among us. We pray for pastors, missionaries, and all church workers. We pray for the spread of the Gospel here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the leaders of our nation and for those entrusted with leadership of the nations of the world, that they strive earnestly for peace and unity among nations. As the new year begins, we pray for a rededication to causes of peace, charity, and justice, that the good and gracious will of God may find expression in our daily lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the members of the armed services and for all first responders and those who maintain the safety and well-being of our communities. And we pray for those who are working on our behalf as the old year closes and the new year begins that they may rejoice in their labor today and each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those in need of our prayers at this time, including the ill and hospitalized, the homebound, those dealing with declining health, and all those for whom the coming year includes significant challenges. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for our household of faith and all who joyfully watch with us for the coming of the Lord among us. Gratefully, we remember those whose earthly journeys are now complete and who are in our God's eternal care, [*including . . .*]. Bless and inspire us by the goodly heritage that has come to us through the witness of the faithful from generations past. Guard us by Your grace, O Lord, and guide us as the Holy Spirit works in us and through us in the coming months. Grant us peace of heart and mind and fill our days with faith and hope and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in Your mercy, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of time and of eternity.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY:

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (LSB 358, vs. 13 & 15)

13 **Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.**

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.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE:

2 Timothy 4:22

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.

PROPER PREFACE:

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In Him, the promised of the ages and the light of the world, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, including our dear ones in Your gracious keeping, we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS:

“Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship” (LSB 949)

1 **Heav’nly hosts in ceaseless worship**

“Holy, holy, holy” cry;

**“He who is, who was and will be,
God Almighty, Lord Most High.”**

**Praise and honor, pow’r and glory,
Be to Him who reigns alone!**

**We, with all His hands have fashioned,
Fall before the Father’s throne.**

2 **All creation, all redemption,
Join to sing the Savior’s worth;**

**Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us,
Kings and priests, to reign on earth.**

**Wealth and wisdom, pow’r and glory,
Honor, might, dominion, praise,**

**Now be His from all His creatures
And to everlasting days!**

LORD’S PRAYER:

Matthew 6:9–13

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide,
 But You have sent Him from Your side
 To walk upon this guilty sod,
 And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
 I love the holy Lamb of God!
 O wash me in His precious blood,
 My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“The Day Thou Gavest” (LSB 886)



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.

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” (LSB 707)



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

“Abide With Me” (LSB 878)



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.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: “*Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*” (LSB 390, vs. 1 & 4)



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
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.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING:

P: Let us pray: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we will be blessings in Your name in all that we do in our daily living throughout the coming year and at all times; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS:

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION:

P: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who is ever with us and for us; the Son, who reveals to us God's grace, mercy, and love in all of our years; and the Holy Spirit, who guides us in ways of peace and faithfulness—abide with you now and forevermore.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“Now the Light Has Gone Away” (LSB 887)



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.

DISMISSAL:

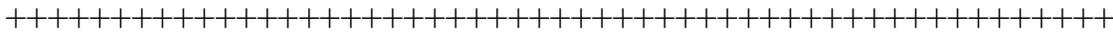
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: “December Flies Away”

arranged by Donald Busarow

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Serving Us in Worship This Evening

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Winkelmann

Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

Lector & Acolyte: DCE Bill Becker

Greeters: Kimberly Ellis & 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. During the offering, please sign the black friendship register at the end of the pew. 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.