



## St. John Lutheran Church

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**December 31, 2022**

# Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our New Year's Eve Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us tonight and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Tonight's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service and be sure to fill out the communion card located in your pew.

May God bless your worship with us today,  
*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

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# New Year's Eve



## As We Gather

### *God's Enduring Love*

The movement from one year to the next provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the year past and look forward to the coming year. As we reflect on the past, many of us will remember particular joys or sorrows. Most of us will have had many ordinary days as well.

There have been times we have forgiven others and times we have been forgiven ourselves. In the midst of it all was God's enduring love for us in Jesus. As we look forward to the coming year, we face unknowns. As one familiar prayer expresses, we face this new year "not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us." In the coming year too, God's enduring love will be present with us no matter what. For nothing "in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." With God's enduring love behind us and ahead of us, we enter the new year as people called to love one another and our neighbors in ways that reflect the enduring love of God for us in Jesus.

### **Preparation and Prelude**

### **"Make Room"**

A family hiding from the storm found no place at the keeper's door.  
It was for this a child was born: To save a world so cold and hollow.

A sleeping town, they did not know that lying in a manger low  
a Savior king who had no home has come to heal our sorrows.

Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?  
Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?

Shepherds counting sheep at night. Do not fear the glory light.  
You are precious in His sight. God has come to raise the lowly.

Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?  
Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?

You can come as you are. It may set you apart,  
when you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory.  
Make room in your heart, make room in your heart.

A mother holds the promise tight. Every wrong will be made right,  
the road is straight, the burden's light, for in His hands He holds tomorrow

Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?

Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?

You can come as you are. It may set you apart,  
when you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory.  
Make room in your heart, make room in your heart, make room in your heart.

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## Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

### Opening Song

### “Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;

With th' angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, th' Incarnate Deity!

Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C** the light no darkness can overcome.

**P** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**C** and the day is almost over.

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness

**C** and illumine Your Church.

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## Song of Praise

## “God So Loved”

Come all you weary, Come all you thirsty.

Come to the well that never runs dry.

Drink of the water, Come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, Come find His mercy.

Come to the table; He will satisfy.

Taste of His goodness, Find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.

Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Bring all your failures, Bring your addictions.  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.  
Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.  
The power of hell forever defeated.  
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.  
For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, praise Him For the wonders of His love.  
Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, praise Him For the wonders of His love.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save.  
For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.  
The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.  
For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.  
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

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## First Reading

Numbers 6:22-27

<sup>22</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup> “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, <sup>24</sup> The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. <sup>27</sup> “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

John 13:31-35

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## “Alive & Breathing”

What holds your heart? What stirs your soul?  
What matters come to mind? The cares you keep,  
The thoughts you think; it's not all wasted time.  
Seek and you will find.

Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting.  
If you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord!  
Don't stop dancing and dreaming.  
There's still good news worth repeating.  
So lift your head and keep singing, “Praise the Lord!”  
The years roll by. We wonder why we lost our way from home.

Our Father finds the child inside we left for growing old.  
Awake, awake, awake my soul.

Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting.  
If you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord!  
Don't stop dancing and dreaming.  
There's still good news worth repeating.  
So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting.  
If you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord!  
Don't stop dancing and dreaming.  
There's still good news worth repeating.  
So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

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## Reflections and Anticipations

### "Everlasting God"

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord, We will wait upon the Lord.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord, We will wait upon the Lord.

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God,  
You do not faint, You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God The everlasting God  
You do not faint You won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

## Offering

*Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.*



## Prayer of the Church

**P** For the Church around the world, that we might collaborate with one another to be faithful witnesses to the love of Christ, that differences be overcome during the coming year, and that all people look not only to their own needs, but also to the needs of others, we pray to the Lord:

**C Lord in your mercy.**

**P** For all governments that they bless their citizens with justice, freedom, accountability, and care for those who cannot care for themselves, that leaders serve with integrity and compassion so that all people may thrive, that peace overcome warfare, that those in the armed forces find Christ to be their hope and peace, and that our opponents instead become our friends, we pray to the Lord:

**C Lord in your mercy.**

**P** For those who serve to keep us safe and help us in times of need, that they carry out their tasks for the good of all, and that this new year brings peace and prosperity to all in our community according to God's will, we pray to the Lord:

**C Lord in your mercy.**

**P** For those with poor health, those who mourn, and those who are lonely, that they experience the presence of Christ in their lives, that our families love, nurture, forgive, and embrace one another, we pray to the Lord:

**C Lord in your mercy.**

**P** We commend to the Lord the year past, trusting in Jesus to forgive our sins and the Holy Spirit to empower us to change in the year ahead. We look forward to the coming year as a time of grace, to grow in our faith in Christ and our love for God and for our neighbors. Trusting in Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever, let all God's people say:

**C Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer



**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## SACRAMENT

### The Words of Our Lord

#### Peace of the Lord

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

**C** Amen.

#### Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

*The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:*

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
2. *Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
3. *Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
4. *Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
5. *Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
6. *Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.*



***If you prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer for communion, please place your hand over your heart as you kneel***

***Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the tray for those members who prefer it due to matters of health or conscience.***



### Communion Song

### "The Blessing"

The Lord bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you  
be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace,.

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

May his favor be upon you and a thousand generations  
and your family and your children and their children and their children.

May his favor be upon you and a thousand generations  
and your family and your children and their children and their children.

May his presence go before you and behind you and beside you,  
all around you and within you. He is with you. He is with you.

In the morning, in the evening, in your coming and your going,  
in your weeping and rejoicing, He is for you, He is for you.

He is for you. He is for you. He is for you. He is for you. He is for you.

He is for you. He is for you.

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

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## Prayer

**P** Let us pray... Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the year now past, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The year is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the new year and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

**C Amen.**

**P** Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping

**C that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.**

## Benediction

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C Amen**

## Sending Song

***“He Shall Reign Forevermore”***

In the bleak mid-winter All creation groans  
For a world in darkness Frozen like a stone  
Light is breaking In a stable for a throne

And He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
Unto us a Child is born The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man I would travel far  
If I were a shepherd I would do my part  
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart

And He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
Unto us a Child is born The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

Here within a manger lies the One Who made the starry skies  
This baby born for sacrifice Christ the Messiah  
Into our hopes into our fears The Savior of the world appears  
The promise of eternal years Christ the Messiah

He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

Unto us a Child is born  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

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