



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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New Year's Eve



December 31, 2025

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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*Compelled by the Love of Christ to
Joyfully Live, Learn, Share, and Serve*



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 gone by and look forward to the year ahead. As we reflect on the past, many of us will remember specific 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 by others. With us through 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." As it has been in the past, so also in the coming year, God's enduring love will be present with us in every moment. 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.

New Year's Eve Worship Preparation and Prelude

Divine Service Five (pp 213ff)

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" LSB 656

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?

Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Text: Public domain

Invocation

L 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.

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

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

L Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

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

L Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

Confession and Forgiveness

- L** 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.**
- L** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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

- L** Most merciful God,
- C** **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.**
- L** 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.**

Service of the Word

- L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- L** Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
- C** **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
- L** The Lord has made known his salvation;
- C** **he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- L** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
- C** **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. 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.**

All Glory Be to God on High – *LSB 947*

All glory be to God on high
And thanks for all His favor;
No harm can touch or terrify
A child of God forever.

God shows His good and gracious will
And grants His peace, the world to fill—
All strife at last has ended.

We praise and laud and worship You;
We give You thanks forever,
O Father, for Your rule is true
And just and changes never.
With boundless pow'r, Your mighty reign
Fulfills whatever You ordain.
Lord, grant us ev'ry blessing!

O Jesus Christ, the only Son
Begotten of the Father,
Your saving death has made us one
With God and with each other.
O Lamb of God, to You on high
In our distress we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, amen!

O Holy Spirit, our delight
And source of consolation,
Protect us from the devil's might
Through Jesus, our salvation,
Who by His death upon a tree
Has rescued us from misery:
To this we hold forever.

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Text: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002579

Prayer of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

L Let us pray together...

G **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. 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Psalm 90:1-12

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³ You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. ⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. ⁷ For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? ¹² So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger,

or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

We All Believe in One True God *LSB 953*

We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav’nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.

We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary’s son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:35-40

L The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

³⁵ “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Song

“Beautiful Savior” *LSB 537*

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Reflections and Anticipations

“What Is the World to Me” *LSB 730*

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone.
What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my wealth.
What is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” *LSB 651*

I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,

Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n
Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, alt. Text: Public domain

Prayer

P Let us pray. ... Lord God, You have done marvelous things in the sight of all people. Most marvelous of all is Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom You have made salvation known. As we reflect on the past year, help us to forgive others, to learn from our errors, and to not dwell on our past sins. As we look forward to the coming year, keep us in Your steadfast love and faithfulness, so that our lives show forth Your goodness to the ends of the earth, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

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

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 truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Holy, Holy, Holy – LSB 507

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,

Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,

Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,

Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826 Text: Public domain

The Words of Our Lord

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy – LSB 434 – vs 1

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546 Text: Public domain

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 Songs

"Jesus, Lead Thou On" LSB 718

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.

If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many_a woe To our home we go.

When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won.
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Text: Public domain

"O Lord, We Praise Thee" LSB 617

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!
Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546
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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.

G Amen.

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

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

Benediction

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

☞ Amen

Sending Song

“O God our Help in Ages Past” LSB 733

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

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

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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt Text: Public domain