

St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



New Year's Eve Service 2024
Endings and Beginnings
Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather

Tomorrow, we celebrate the beginning of the new year. For many, that will mean a family gathering, a meal, and stories about the past. On this New Year's Eve, many will make New Year's resolutions—something they intend to change in the upcoming year. There is a good chance you already know where you will spend that time, often with family, food, and storytelling. Have you ever considered there is a day coming that will be like no other before it? That day will be a day of judgment and salvation. It will be a day when wickedness is forever vanquished to the pits of hell and the righteous will celebrate with a feast and the story of our salvation told. It will be a day of change—one the world has never seen before and never will again. Thanks be to God for that day—let us look forward to it with great joy!

PREPARATION

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

1 Let all together praise our God

**Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.**

2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,

**Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,**

**Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.**

**3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.**

**4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.**

**5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.**

**6 He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.**

**7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield**

**And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.**

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text (sts. 1, 3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn license no. 110005513 Text (st. 2): Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

2 Corinthians 13:5

P Dearly beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ, we gather on this last day of the year to worship our God and to receive the Lord's Supper.

C We are also called by the apostle Paul: "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

P Lift up your hearts, and joyfully give answer to the questions I shall now ask you. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God's forgiveness?

C Yes, I confess it; I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.

P How do you know this?

C From the Ten Commandments. I have sinned against God and against my neighbor.

P Are you sorry that you have sinned against God and your neighbor?

C Yes, it bothers my conscience that I have sinned against God and my neighbor.

P Where will you look for comfort and forgiveness?

C Only to the mercy and grace of God, which He demonstrated by sending Jesus to the cross and then to rise from the tomb. There is no other place.

P Do you repent of your sins?

C Yes, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, I will turn from my sins and live a holy life.

P Indeed, you should turn from your sins, as did Simon Peter, Paul, and all who have believed. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Thanks be to God for His gifts of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

WORD

**C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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. 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.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–7

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁵Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;

⁶but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast.

⁷Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 John 3:1–3

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse*Psalm 103:17a*

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

C Alleluia.**Holy Gospel***Luke 4:16–21*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

²¹And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

899 Across the Sky the Shades of Night

1 Across the sky the shades of night

This New Year's Eve are fleeting.

We deck Your altar, Lord, with light,

In solemn worship meeting;

And as the year's last hours go by,

We raise to You our earnest cry,

Once more Your love entreating.

2 Before the cross subdued we bow,

To You our prayer addressing,

Recounting all Your mercies now,

And all our sins confessing;

Beseeching You this coming year

To keep us in Your faith and fear

And crown us with Your blessing.

3 We gather up in this brief hour

The mem'ry of Your mercies:

Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r

Our grateful song rehearses;

For You have been our strength and stay

In many_a dark and dreary day

Of sorrow and reverses.

4 We now remember, as we pray,

Our dear ones in Your caring

Who brightly shine in endless day,

Past death and all despairing.

At our life's end, Lord, as Your own,

**Bring us with them around Your throne,
The joys of heaven sharing.**

**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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Sermon

Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,**

**being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Offering

SACRAMENT

Preface

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 Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n 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!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

The Words of Our Lord

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.

Agnus Dei LSB 210

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymn

384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

**1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**

**2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,**

**First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

**3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

**4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

**5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,**

And eternal victory

Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
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Thank the Lord *LSB 164*

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

**1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee
Bow in deep humility.**

**2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell,
By the angel Gabriel.**

**3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave,
"Jesus shall His people save."**

**4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,
Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe
First He tasted here below.**

**5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.**

**6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;**

**Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.**

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