



New Year's Day Service January 1, 2025

P: We worship in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son (†) and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: As we look back on the old year now ended, we ask our gracious God to hear us:

C: O Lord, be with us and help us to keep you as the center of our lives.

Hymn - Help Us, O Lord! Behold, We Enter

**1. Help us, O Lord! Behold, we enter
Upon another year today;
In Thee our hopes and thoughts now center,
Renew our courage for the way.
New life, new strength, new happiness,
We ask of Thee, -- oh, hear and bless!**

**5. Jesus, be with me and direct me;
Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire;
Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me;
Jesus, be all my heart's Desire;
Jesus, be in my thoughts all day
Nor suffer me to fall away.**

P: At the dawn of a new year, we ask our gracious God to forgive us:

C: O Lord, be with us and guide us in holy living.

**2. May every plan and undertaking
This year be all begun with Thee;
When I am sleeping or am waking,
Still let me know Thou art with me.
Abroad do Thou my footsteps guide,
At home be ever at my side.**

**4. And may this year to me be holy;
Thy grace so fill my every thought
That all my life be pure and lowly
And truthful, as a Christian's ought.
So make me while yet dwelling here
Pious and blest from year to year.**

P: As we begin this year in worship, we ask our gracious God to prepare us:

C: O Lord, be with us as we look forward to our eternal home in heaven.

**6. And grant, Lord, when the year is over,
That it for me in peace may close;
In all things care for me and cover
My head in time of fear and woes.
So may I when my years are gone
Appear with joy before Thy throne.**

Text and Tune: public domain.

P: *We pray:* Eternal God, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen, we thank you for the beautiful world in which we live, for the boundless universe which serves as the home of our planet, and for the grand design by which everything moves precisely at your command.

C: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

P: We confess to you, O Lord, that we have shared in the ruin of your creation. We have sinned like Adam and Eve, we have listened to the voice of Satan, we have violated your commands.

C: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

P: Spare us from your anger, O Lord, and put away your sword of wrath. Look on us in love and deliver us from the hellfire we deserve.

Pastor & Congregation: O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and enable me to serve you and those around me with love and kindness. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

First Lesson: – Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The pre-incarnate Savior declares his mission of grace to his people. Arrayed as a bridegroom, he comes to redeem his bride by bringing righteousness for all people to the praise and glory of God.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Second Lesson: – Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Paul proclaims the mystery of our election to salvation by grace. This is for our assurance and comfort, and provides a sure base of spiritual wisdom and insight-all to the praise and glory of God.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)

Gospel Lesson: – John 1:14-18

We are reminded how "from the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." What are these blessings? Grace, assurance, wisdom -- the very gifts from God's goodness spoken of in the previous readings!

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through

Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Hymn - Draw Us to Thee

**1. Draw us to Thee,
For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on
Where Thou art gone
To be with Thee, dear Savior.**

**2. Draw us to Thee,
Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness
That we may be
Forever free
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.**

**3. Draw us to Thee;
O grant that we
May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way
Lest we should stray
And from Thy paths be driven.**

**4. Draw us to Thee
That also we
Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
And ever dwell
Where sin and hell
No more can vex our spirit.**

**5. Draw us to Thee
Unceasingly,
Into Thy kingdom take us;
Let us fore'er**

**Thy glory share,
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

Text and Tune: public domain.

Gathering of Offerings

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

(1 Corinthians 10:31) We offer ourselves - time, talents, treasure - in thanks to the Lord, who was born in humility and generously gave his life for our salvation.

(please stand)

Hymn - The Old Year Now hath Passed Away

**1. The old year now hath passed away;
We thank Thee, O our God, today
That Thou hast kept us through the year
When danger and distress were near.**

**4. Oh, help us to forsake all sin,
A new and holier course begin!
Mark not what once was done amiss;
A happier, better year be this,**

**5. Wherein as Christians we may live
Or die in peace that Thou canst give,
To rise again when Thou shalt come
And enter Thine eternal home.**

**6. There shall we thank Thee and adore
With all the angels evermore.
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith
To praise Thy name through life and death.**

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Responsive Prayer for New Year's Day

P: Lord of all, be with your faithful people everywhere as they share the saving truth of the gospel with dying souls throughout our world.

We pray for the various missions of our church which are reaching out to needy souls everywhere:

C: For those serving lost souls in Africa, Asia and other distant lands, we ask your blessing:

P: Be with our missionaries and keep them safe in body and soul. Bless their work as they battle pagan beliefs with the sword of your Spirit.

C: For those serving troubled souls in prison, we ask your blessing:

P: Give our pastors serving such institutions the courage to reach behind bars with the message of Jesus' death and resurrection. Let their witness work true repentance and bring peace to troubled hearts.

C: For those serving the aged who live alone or are confined in nursing homes and are often forgotten, we ask your blessing:

P: Fill the hearts of those who serve the elderly with compassion and a love for brothers and sisters who eagerly await your heavenly mansions.

C: For those serving the youth through confirmation classes, Sunday School or in other ways, we ask your blessing:

P: Enable them to reach our young people with your powerful Word and lead your lambs to humbly serve you.

C: For those serving the sick and troubled, who face life-threatening diseases or the trials of each day, we ask your blessing:

P: Guide the efforts of those who offer their comfort, encouragement and care as they bring true peace to troubled hearts in the message of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ.

C: Lord of all, be with and bless your people in whatever way they serve you.

P: Help the members of Christian congregations everywhere to support one another with prayer and encouraging words. Give us the strength and the boldness to speak the truths of your Word at every opportunity.

C: Bless us all as we live, move and breathe to your glory.

P: May your Word take root in our hearts and in the hearts of people throughout our world that many may cling to you in faith and find true peace in you.

Pastor & Congregation: Great and glorious God, bless our prayers, our personal witness and our gifts – everything we do as we share your Word - that your kingdom may grow here on earth and also in heaven. Amen.

Hymn - Father Let Me Dedicate

1. Father, let me dedicate

All this year to Thee,

In whatever earthly state

Thou wilt have me be.

Not from sorrow, pain, or care

Freedom dare I claim;

This alone shall be my prayer:

Glorify Thy name.

2. Can a child presume to choose

Where or how to live?

Can a father's love refuse

All the best to give?

More Thou givest every day

Than the best can claim

Nor withholdest aught that may

Glorify Thy name.

3. If in mercy Thou wilt spare

Joys that yet are mine;

If on life, serene and fair,

Brighter rays may shine,

Let my glad heart while it sings

Thee in all proclaim

And, whate'er the future brings,

Glorify Thy name.

**4. If Thou callest to the cross
And its shadow come,
Turning all my gain to loss,
Shrouding heart and home,
Let me think how Thy dear Son
To His glory came
And in deepest woe pray on:
"Glorify Thy name."**

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Prayer

P: Eternal Lord, a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Give us courage as we begin a new year, and give us a steady hope as we live each new day with the promise of your Son, "*Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" As we live in the blessing of our baptism and are strengthened by your Word, empower us to serve you in all we think and say and do, that we may love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen. (sung)

Hymn - Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

1. Let us all with gladsome voice

**Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.**

2. To this vale of tears He comes,

**Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'ns fair homes
We may reign in gladness.**

3. We are rich, for He was poor;

**Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.**

4. Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,

**Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Silent Prayer