
New Year's Day Service January 1, 2026

Through Jesus, God's Son, our Savior, we have received the gifts of righteousness, peace, and eternal life. In thanks we dedicate ourselves to the Lord; today, throughout the New Year, and for the rest of our lives.

P: We worship in the name of the 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 TLH 124 "O Lord, our Father..."

1. O Lord, our Father, thanks to Thee

In this new year we render,

For every evil had to flee

Before Thee, our Defender.

Our life was nourished, we were fed

With rich supplies of daily bread,

And peace reigned in our borders.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks to Thee

In this new year we render;

Thy reign hath kept Thy people free,

Hath shown Thy mercies tender.

Thou hast redeemed us with Thy blood,

Thou art our Joy, our only Good,
In life and death our Savior.

3. Lord Holy Ghost, our thanks to Thee
In this new year we render,
For Thou hast led our eyes to see
Thy truth in all its splendor
And thus enkindled from above
Within our hearts true faith and love
And other Christian virtues.

4. Our faithful God, we cry to Thee:
Still bless us with Thy favor,
Blot out all our iniquity,
And hide our sins forever.
Grant us a happy, good new year
And, when the hour of death draws near,
A peaceful, blest departure. Amen.

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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, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:14)

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: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalm 51:5)

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: – **Joshua 24:14-18** - *By God's grace we are forgiven. Our thankful response is a life of service to Him.*

“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.”¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods,¹⁷ for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed.”¹⁸ And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.”

Second Lesson: – **Galatians 3:23-29** - *Through faith in Christ, we are now children of God and heirs of heaven.*

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.²⁴ So then, the

law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 98:3b

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson: – John 1:14-18 - *We are reminded how "from the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another."*

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; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

C:(sing) Praise be to You, O Christ!

Hymn TLH 110: (1,2,4,3) Across the Sky the Shades of Night

**1. Across the sky the shades of night
This New Year's Eve are fleeting.
We deck Thine altar, Lord, with light,
In solemn worship meeting;**

**And as the year's last hours go by,
We raise to Thee our earnest cry,
Once more Thy love entreating.**

**2. Before the cross subdued we bow,
To Thee our prayers addressing,
Recounting all Thy mercies now,
And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching Thee this coming year
To keep us in Thy faith and fear
And crown us with Thy blessing.**

**4. We gather up in this brief hour
The memory of Thy mercies:
Thy wondrous goodness, love, and power
Our grateful song rehearses;
For Thou hast been our Strength and Stay
In many a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.**

**3. And while we pray, we lift our eyes
To dear ones gone before us,
Safe home with Thee in Paradise,
Whose peace descendeth o'er us;
And beg of Thee, when life is past,
To reunite us all at last
With those who've gone before us.**

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Sermon

Offering: *“Whatever you do, do all to 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****

Offering Hymn 97 “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 heaven's fair home
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. O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us!**

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Responsive Prayer for New Year's Day & The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of God's flock, bless us with Your tender care and hold us close in Your strong, loving arms.

C: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

P: To carry out the work of shepherding Your people You established the holy ministry, sending forth servants to feed Your people the life-giving Gospel, to comfort Your people with the peace of forgiveness, to encourage Your people with the hope of salvation.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

P: So that the Church may continue to know Your saving truth, we ask that You bless the schools that are preparing tomorrow's shepherds. Bless the professors with wisdom and faithfulness. Bless the students with a zeal for Your kingdom and a love for Your Word. Preserve among them the purity of the Gospel so that our pulpits may always be filled with shepherds who are faithful to the truth and our schools may have teachers who desire to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the truth.

C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

P: Grant that these schools would not only provide tomorrow's pastors and teachers with knowledge, but would prepare them for the many diverse tasks of a shepherd of souls. We pray that future teachers might pass on to our children knowledge and wisdom, and that they may nurture and care for our children as our Savior said, "Feed my lambs." We pray that future pastors might be enabled to comfort the sick, counsel those who are troubled and confused, admonish the straying, that they may be teachers of young and old, that they may equip Your saints for works of service and comfort the dying with the hope that is only found at the cross of Calvary and the empty Easter tomb.

C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

P: Bless our future pastors and teachers with all the tools they will need to do the work of a shepherd. They will need the many gifts of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. They will need wisdom and understanding. Above all else, they need the means of grace, Your Gospel that comes to us in Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit's tools that alone can create and strengthen faith and build

the Holy Christian Church.

C: Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P: Instill in all Your servants an appreciation of and love for the special gifts You have given the Church, the Gospel made visible in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. May they learn to take seriously Your commission to share with all people the washing of sins in Baptism. Grant them a zeal for Your table, where you give Your true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. These blessings are truly gifts of Your boundless grace.

C: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

P: Bless faculties, staff and students with your continued kindness. Fill these schools to overflowing so that Your Church may have enough workers to send out into the harvest. As You have blessed Your flock throughout all generations with Your love, Your goodness and mercy, continue to be with us and with our children for generations to come. Keep the Church in Your tender care.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

P: At last, grant Your Church final victory over all its enemies. When the time shall come, bring us and all Your children into the eternal life You Yourself promised to all who believe in Your holy name. You are our Good Shepherd. Keep Your flock throughout all eternity.

C: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. 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.**

Hymn 118 "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."**

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Prayer & Blessing

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, "*Behold, I am with you always, to the 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.

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 625 "Oh, Blest the House Whate'er Befall"

**1. Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
Yea, if He were not dwelling there,
How dark and poor and void it were!**

**2. Oh, blest that house where faith ye find
And all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!**

**3. Oh, blest the parents who give heed
Unto their children's foremost need**

**And weary not of care or cost!
May none to them and heaven be lost!**

**4. Blest such a house, it prospers well,
In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lot is shown
How richly God can bless His own.**

**5. Then here will I and mine today
A solemn covenant make and say:
Though all the world forsake Thy Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord!**

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Silent Prayer