



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
SERBIN

NEW YEAR'S EVE  
DECEMBER 31, 2022

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAY ARIGHT,  
THAT WE MAY GAIN A HEART OF WISDOM. PS 90:12

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# NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2022

## **WELCOME**

Our identity as God's people is a gift that we receive from our heavenly Father. Through our Baptism and through His continued work in our lives through His Word and Sacraments, God is with us. New Year's Eve helps us remember God's presence throughout our lives. While another year is passing, and we look forward to the coming of the year 2023, we recognize that in both our joys and our sorrows, God has been and is with us. It is His presence in our lives that gives our lives meaning and worth. It is His presence that gives us hope for the future.

## **OPENING HYMN: ♪"O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"**

**LSB 733**

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:**
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.**
- 3 Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.**
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.**
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.**
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!**

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*Stand*

### **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **CONFESSION**

Pastor: With the closing of another year, we are compelled to look back upon it and to carry forward its joys and blessings into the new year.

**People: Thank You, Lord, for the goodness You have shown to us in the year now ending. You have blessed us in ways too numerous to count. You have sustained us in times of trouble in ways we cannot ever fully appreciate.**

Pastor: Having come to the close of another year, we are compelled to look back upon it and to unburden ourselves before God of all that destroys our happiness and hinders our mission.

**People: Merciful Father, this has been another year of sin for us. We have grieved Your heart with our rebellion in thought, word, and deed. Even though we bear the name "Christian," we have failed to lead lives worthy of that calling. We have not done the good things required of us in Your commandments. We ask Your forgiveness in the name of Jesus, Your only Son, who died for our sins. We ask Your Holy Spirit, in the year now beginning, to help us faithfully reflect the image of Christ.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: God has heard your confession. His love, mercy, and grace are everlasting. Therefore, listen to the words of St. Paul recorded in the letter to the Romans: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all---how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies." Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: As we begin a new year, forgiven by God, we are reminded that we are His redeemed saints. We forge ahead in this new year, not in bondage, but in freedom; no longer in futility, but persevering in hope that does not disappoint us. God bless us and keep us in the coming year.

**People: Amen.**

### **INTROIT**

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. 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 Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen.**

**🎵 Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord,  
have mercy upon us.**

**🎵** Glory be to God on High, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee. We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**📖** The Lord be with you.

**🎵** And with thy spirit.

### **PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Pastor: God of all time and eternity, the Alpha and Omega, we commit to You the year now completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year now at hand. Throughout the coming days, weeks, and months encourage us by Your Spirit to make wise use of Your Word and Sacraments that we may be thoroughly strengthened in our faith, and grounded in the love, grace, and mercy of Christ, our Lord, in whose wondrous name we commence this new year.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

**ISAIAH 30:15-17**

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **GRADUAL**

Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

### **EPISTLE**

**ROMANS 8:31-39**

If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**🎵 Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**LUKE 12:35-40**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 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. 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. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 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. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

**SERMON HYMN: ♪ "JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE"**

**LSB 743**

**1 Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure,  
Truest friend to me,  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish,  
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
Thou art mine,  
O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;  
Naught I ask beside Thee.**

- 2 In Thine arms I rest me;  
Foes who would molest me  
Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking,  
Ev'ry heart be quaking,  
Jesus calms my fear.  
Lightnings flash  
And thunders crash;  
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.
- 3 Satan, I defy thee;  
Death, I now decry thee;  
Fear, I bid thee cease.  
World, thou shalt not harm me  
Nor thy threats alarm me  
While I sing of peace.  
God's great pow'r  
Guards ev'ry hour;  
Earth and all its depths adore Him,  
Silent bow before Him.
- 4 Hence, all earthly treasure!  
Jesus is my pleasure,  
Jesus is my choice.  
Hence, all empty glory!  
Naught to me thy story  
Told with tempting voice.  
Pain or loss,  
Or shame or cross,  
Shall not from my Savior move me  
Since He deigns to love me.
- 5 Evil world, I leave thee;  
Thou canst not deceive me,  
Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour,  
O pride and pow'r;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

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**SERMON: "NEW YEAR...NO FEAR!"**  
By Pastor John Schmidt

**ROMANS 8:31.39**

*Stand*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

**OFFERTORY**

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

*Sit*

**OFFERING**

*As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.*

**OFFERING HYMN: ♪"WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN**

**LSB 781 V. 1-2**

**1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Sit*

- 1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night  
For all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath Thine own almighty wings.**
- 2 Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,  
The ill that I this day have done,  
That with the world, myself, and Thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**
- 3 Teach me to live that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die that so I may  
Rise glorious at the awe-full day.**
- 4 Oh, may my soul in Thee repose,  
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make  
To serve my God when I awake!**
- 5 When in the night I sleepless lie,  
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.**

- △ **6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: ♪ Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: ♪ "ABIDE WITH ME"**

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**



- 3** Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4** Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5** I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6** Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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## ***POSTLUDE***

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**MAY YOU HAVE A  
BLESSED NEW YEAR**