



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
SERBIN

NEW YEAR'S EVE  
DECEMBER 31, 2025

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

Church 366-9650  
School 366-9650 ECC 366-9650

# NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2025

## **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 2026, 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: ♪"WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING"**

**LSB 516**

- 1 "Wake, awake, for night is flying,"  
The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes, awake!  
Your lamps with gladness take!  
Alleluia!  
With bridal care  
Yourselves prepare  
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."
  
- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
And all her heart with joy is springing;  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;  
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,  
Hail! Hosanna!  
We enter all  
The wedding hall  
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

**3 Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,  
Let saints and angels sing before Thee  
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where, joining with the choir immortal,  
We gather round Thy radiant throne.  
No eye has seen the light,  
No ear has heard the might  
Of Thy glory;  
Therefore will we  
Eternally  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!**

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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.**

**P** 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**

### **1 KINGS 3:4-15**

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk

in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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 8:31B-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.**

**SERMON HYMN: ♪“RISE, MY SOUL, TO WATCH AND PRAY”**

- 1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray;  
From your sleep awaken!  
Be not by the evil day  
Unawares o’ertaken;  
For the foe,  
Well we know,  
Is a harvest reaping  
While the saints are sleeping.**
  
- 2 Watch against the devil’s snares  
Lest asleep he find you;  
For indeed no pains he spares  
To deceive and blind you.  
Satan’s prey  
Oft are they  
Who secure are sleeping  
And no watch are keeping.**
  
- 3 Watch! Let not the wicked world  
With its lies defeat you  
Lest with bold deceptions hurled  
It betray and cheat you.  
Watch and see  
Lest there be  
Faithless friends to charm you,  
Who but seek to harm you.**
  
- 4 Watch against yourself, my soul,  
Lest with grace you trifle;  
Let not self your thoughts control  
Nor God’s mercy stifle.  
Pride and sin  
Lurk within,  
All your hopes to shatter;  
Heed not when they flatter.**
  
- 5 But while watching, also pray  
To the Lord unceasing.  
God protects you day by day,  
Strength and faith increasing,  
So that still  
Mind and will  
Shall unite to serve Him  
And forever love Him.**

By Pastor John Schmidt

*Stand*

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

**C** Amen.

**OFFERTORY**

**C** *J* 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: *J*"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*

**HYMN: *J*"IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"**

**LSB 366**

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
  
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds  
The blessèd angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,  
By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour,  
Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace;  
Of Him the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

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*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"**

**LSB 878**

- 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