

New Year's Eve

Divine Worship at 7:00 p.m.



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

917 West Jefferson Boulevard, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 260/423-1369 Website: www.emmanuel Lutheran.org

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Here are a few things we'd like you to know...



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



We are so happy you are here!

We've got tot bags and children's bulletins that are located in the east and west rear entrances of the church. Also, check out our Visual Faith page in the back of the bulletin.

Please feel free to bring your kids up during the distribution of Holy Communion for a personal blessing.

The unstaffed Church Nursery is available for children three years of age and younger and is located in the lower level. If you need help finding it, please ask one of our ushers who will gladly guide you.

PRAYER REQUESTS



If you have a prayer request that you would like announced to the congregation, you will find a prayer request card on the tables located near each entrance into the sanctuary. Drop the completed card into one of the boxes located at each entrance, or simply hand it to an usher.

CONNECTIONS COUNTER



Visit the Connections Counter located in Ebenezer Hall. We've been expecting you and have a gift for our visitors. You can also pick up information on all we have to offer and sign up for events too!

SPECIAL NEEDS



We offer a hearing loop, large print bulletins and printed copies of today's sermon. If these would be helpful, please ask one of our ushers who would be delighted to assist you.

GATHERING TIME



Join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship on Sunday mornings, after the early service and before Sunday school and Bible classes begin.

EMMANUEL APP



emmanuellutheran.org



Found in the gathering space we call Ebenezer Hall.

BUILDING FAITH IN THE CITY

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2024

"Teach Us to Number Our Days"

AS WE GATHER

We mark the movement of time in many ways. We use seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, years, etc. We also use events like birthdays, anniversaries, school grade level, etc. Yet, with all these ways to number our days, we still need God to remind us to number our days according to His presence and promises. Tonight, we call upon God to give us understanding of His presence and promise that filled the year that is ending and remains with us in the new year beginning!

+ THE ORDER OF SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M. +

THE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: Christmas Selections

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

(Please stand, as you are able)

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Leader: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

People: **and the day is almost over.**

Leader: Let your light scatter the darkness

People: **and illumine Your Church.**

THE HYMN OF LIGHT

Leader: Joyous light of glory:

People: **of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.**

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

Leader: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a

lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: As we gather for worship on this New Year's Eve, we thank God for the year drawing to a close, looking forward to His continuing grace and mercy in the months to come.

People: Gracious Lord, we thank You for having been with us in the days now ending. Be with us as we start the New Year. All our beginnings are made in Your Holy Name. Amen.

(Please be seated)

THE OPENING HYMN: "Across the Sky the Shades of Night"

Hymn 899

(Please stand, as you are able)

THE INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: With the closing of another year, we look back upon it and 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.

Leader: Having come to the close of another year, we look back upon it and unburden ourselves of all that destroys our relationship with You 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. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, in the year now beginning, help us faithfully reflect the image of Christ.

Leader: 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?" With the peace of this promise, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive

you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: 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 will bless us and keep us in the coming year.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: "What God Ordains Is Always Good" Hymn 760
(Verses 1 and 2)

THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 51:4-6

"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: "What God Ordains Is Always Good" Hymn 760
(Verses 3 and 4)

THE EPISTLE: Romans 8:31b-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: "What God Ordains Is Always Good" Hymn 760
(Verses 5 and 6)

(Please stand, as you are able)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:35-40

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and 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. ³⁷Blessed 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. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But 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. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED (Spoken together) Inside back cover of hymnal
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 worshipped 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.

(Please be seated)

THE SERMON HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn 733

THE SERMON

Pastor Dennis McFadden

THE GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please take the black binder at the end of each pew, and fill out the appropriate info. We encourage our members to greet our visitors after the service.

THE MUSICAL OFFERING: "Gesu Bambino"

Yon

(Please stand, as you are able)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Almighty God, on this New Year's Eve, we give You thanks for Your presence in each and every day of our lives and we ask Your blessing on us in the year ahead. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Hear us as we pray for the whole world. May the coming year be marked with peace among nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Hear us as we pray for the Church. May the good tidings of great joy in Jesus be spread far and wide. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Hear us as we pray for our congregation. May we seek to fulfill Your will and carry out Your ministry among us and through us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Hear us as we pray for the special needs known to each of us as we enter a new year of divine grace.

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

+ THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION +

THE PREFACE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right and fitting that we should give thanks to You, gracious Lord.
You are the source of our life and the ruler of time.
People: **Strengthen us with Your presence, eternal God, that we may ever live to Your glory.**

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Your love has sustained us in the past year, and we trust Your promise that nothing can separate us from Your love shown in Christ in the year to come. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

THE SANCTUS (Sung by the congregation)

LSB, 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken together)

During the Lord's Prayer, the church bell tolls three times to encourage those outside the sanctuary to join with the church in corporate prayer.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **And also with you.**

THE AGNUS DEI (Sung by the congregation)

LSB, 163



(Please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION (Served by table)

When Jesus said, "This is My Body...This is My Blood," He really meant it. As Lutherans, we believe in the real bodily presence of Christ in the Sacrament, not merely in a figurative or symbolic sense. This means that Jesus' body and blood are actually present in the bread and wine received in Holy Communion. In this meal our faith is strengthened and forgiveness is assured. This gift is an act of God's love, which we don't deserve, cannot explain, and don't even fully understand. We humbly believe it. It is a request of our congregation that anyone who wishes to commune with us would share this faith. If you are not receiving the Lord's Supper today but desire a blessing, approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your heart. The individual cups located in the center of each tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those having that medical need. Individually packaged gluten-free communion wafers are available. Please ask the Communion Assistant if you have this dietary need.

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"How Great Thou Art"

Hymn 801

"Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

Hymn 900

"Now the Light Has Gone Away"

Hymn 887

(Please stand, as you are able)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Lord, we thank You that once again You have been with us as we have gathered in Your house and that of Your mercy You have strengthened us with Your heavenly feast. Bless our lives with Your

abiding presence and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom. We ask this for Jesus' sake.

People: Amen.

THE PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Leader: Gracious God of endings and beginnings, we commit to Your grace and forgiveness the year now completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year now at hand. Throughout the coming weeks and months make the presence of Your Holy Spirit known in our lives, drawing us ever closer to Christ Jesus, our Lord and our Redeemer, in whose wondrous name we make all our beginnings.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN: "Abide with Me" (Sing verse 6 a capella)

Hymn 878

THE POSTLUDE

Liturgist: Pastor Dan Sheafer

Organ/Piano: Myra Schmidt

Soloist Caroline Eber

Acolyte: Frank Green

Altar Guild: Tammy Bair, JoAnn Bender, LuAnn Bender, Tina Bruce

Usher Crew: Mike Huesner, Matt Benne, Jasper Downie, Mike Repp

Communion: Mike Huesner, Jerry Schoenefeld, Kevin McGuigan, Greg Wasson

Audio Engr: Mike Harvey



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Artist Rachel Hinz

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This Visual Faith resource is designed to help visual and tactile learners take worship into the week. You can find more Visual Faith resources at <https://www.visualfaithmin.org>.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building faith in the city

We are a caring family of baptized Christians bound together in the forgiveness which God has provided all people through His Son.

This family exists to announce this gift of forgiveness to individuals of all nations and cultures through the preaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments. Emmanuel instructs young and old according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and reaches out through forgiving relationships, working to connect all members of the family through caring friendships.

Emmanuel serves as shepherds of the sheep; seekers of the lost; friends of sinners; and caregivers to the poor, lonely and broken-hearted. It is a family that cares for all people and reaches out to witness to the love and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ.

Emmanuel Worship Services are designed to share God's love and forgiveness through the ministry of Word and Sacrament. We offer a variety of worship styles and we encourage you to worship in the liturgical style that best meets your needs.

Saturday Evening Divine Service—This service offers a contemporary setting and is held on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Divine Services—These services are held on Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. and feature worship in a traditional liturgical setting.

Church Staff

Thomas A. Eggold, Senior Pastor
Dan Sheaffer, Associate Pastor
Lana Hille, Dir. of Congregational Care
Sarah Pennekamp, Dir. of Discipleship
& Youth Ministry
Liz Bejot, Dir. of Children's Ministry
Jennifer Tweedy, Dir. of Admin.
& Finance
Arthur Klausmeier, Pastor Emeritus
Dan May, Pastoral Assistant
Dennis McFadden, Pastoral Assistant
Herb Schumm, Pastoral Assistant

Mark Sheaffer, Pastoral Assistant
Ryan Tietz, Pastoral Assistant
Dan Dahling, Pastoral Assistant
Craig Dahlkamp, Worship Director
Myra Schmidt, Lead Organist
Dick Shively, Business Manager
Becki Elonzae, Office Manager
Randy Thompson, Maintenance Supervisor
Carolyn Meyer, Administrative Assistant
Ryan Nichols, Seminary Fieldworker
Brad Larson, Seminary Fieldworker

Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School

Dr. Ben Stellwagen, Principal

1123 Union Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Website: www.esmeagles.com

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

899



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are
 2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -
 3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your
 4 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your
 5 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may



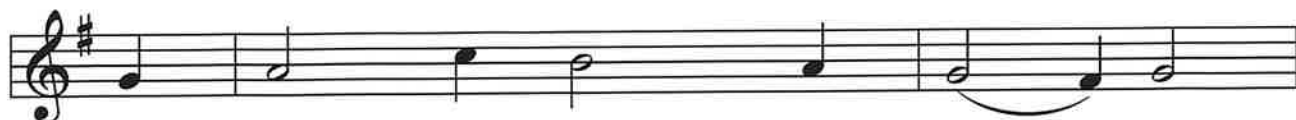
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
 car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past
 guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last
 all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this
 grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our
 death and all de - spair - ing. At our life's end, Lord,
 mer - cy walk be - side us Un - til at last our



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,
 com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear
 strength and stay In man - y a dark and drea - ry day
 as Your own, Bring us with them a - round Your throne,
 ran - somed life Is safe from per - il, toil, and strife



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.
 And crown us with Your bless - ing.
 Of sor - row and re - vers - es.
 The joys of heav - en shar - ing.
 When heav'n it - self shall hide us.

What God Ordains Is Always Good

760



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my



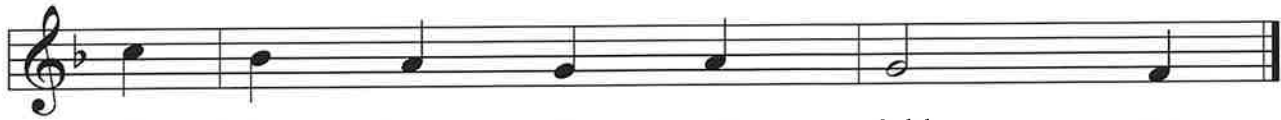
just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm



I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed
And nev - er will He leave me. I take con - tent
That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;
Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know



In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
What He has sent; His hand that sends me sad - ness
Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,
Both joy and woe; Some - day I shall see clear - ly



To Him, then, I will yield me.
Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
My life to Him com - mend - ing.
That He has loved me dear - ly.

5 What God ordains is always good:
Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness,
I take it without shrinking.
For after grief
God gives relief,
My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.

6 What God ordains is always good:
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm,
For with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

733



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou-sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing 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!

How Great Thou Art

801



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

900



- 1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel-ing in her low-ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save."
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

- 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.

Text and tune: Public domain

887 Now the Light Has Gone Away



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Abide with Me

878



1 A - bidē with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bidē.
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bidē with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bidē with me.
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bidē with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bidē 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.