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Rev. Dean M. Davenport, Senior Pastor
Rev. Joel A. Werner, Associate Pastor

NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2025 ~ 7:00pm

To Our Guests: We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today! Please stop by our Welcome Desk for more information about all our ministries. Please read below for more information about worshipping with us.

We love children at Christ Our Savior. Parents are encouraged to sit in the front pews so young children can see what is happening during worship.

Joyful Giving Opportunities: The offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to place your offering there before and after the worship services. Or give online! Click on the QR code to the right. →



Please check in with the Friendship Pad or Online. Remove the Friendship pad from the hymn rack on the center aisle and fill out your information. Take note of the people sitting around you – welcome each other by name! Or check in online by clicking here: →



The Lord's Supper. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we confess our common belief that Christ offers His Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, for our forgiveness, life and salvation! We truly believe God's Word when He says, "whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord" *1 Corinthians 11:27*. We want you to receive the Lord's Supper as God intended it – for your blessing – so those who are not communicant members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are asked to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing. If you are not communing today, you are welcome to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing, the assurance that God loves you, or you may remain in your seat and use the time for prayer and meditation. **For those desiring to receive the Lord's Supper but are unable to come forward, please get the attention of the pastor/communion assistant as they come out into the congregation during distribution. They will commune you at your seat.** God bless your worship!

AS WE GATHER

Although not an official church holiday, New Year's Eve has been, for many centuries, a time for Christian people to gather for worship. The psalmist exclaims: "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth"" (*Psalms 34:1*). The changing of the calendar year is a most appropriate time for God's people to bless Him and thank Him for the time of the old year now ending and for the time yet to come in the new year. King David, the psalmist, shares this blessed invitation with us: "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!" (*Psalms 34:3*). In another of his thoughtfully reflective psalms, David says to the Lord: "But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand" (*Psalms 31:14-15a*). In our worship this New Year's Eve, we echo the faith-filled expression of King David, joyfully committing our time and commending our times to our gracious and faithful God.

Order of Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ Preparation ✠

OPENING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LSB 515

- 1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**
- 2. The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.**
- 3. The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.**
- 4. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!**

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**
P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your church.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Reflecting on the year that is passing, let us make confession to God, our heavenly Father.
C **Gracious Lord, as this year now ends, we confess our sins, once again beseeching Your mercy and asking Your forgiveness. We are fallen creatures, stained by sin from the beginning of our lives. During the year now closing, we have sinned against You repeatedly in thought, word, and deed. We deserve nothing but Your condemnation and punishment. Yet, as penitent people, we come before You, humbly asking Your pardon and seeking the peace that only You can grant.**
P For the sake of Jesus Christ, God grants forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Word ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

LSB 390

1. **Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.**
4. **Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.

C **In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

P who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN BACKGROUND

Part 1

P The appointed Hymn of the Day for New Year's Eve is "Across the Sky the Shades of Night." The hymn text, primarily written by English author James Hamilton, reflects several Christian New Year's Eve customs popular in nineteenth-century Europe and America. In that era, many churches would be specially decorated with lanterns and candles and other sources of lights that would remain lit from the time the worshiping community gathered in the early evening and well into the nighttime hours, past when the shades of night faded away. Often, the hymn singing, Bible reading, and prayers would last for hours, so that the assembly was still at worship when the New Year began at midnight. At that hour, the "watch time" was completed. Joyfully, the bells of the churches would be rung to welcome the new "Anno Domini"—the Year of the Lord. With resounding joy, we sing the first three stanzas of this hymn.

HYMN

"Across the Sky the Shades of Night"

LSB 899

1. **Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting.
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting;
And as the year's last hours go by, We raise to You our earnest cry,
Once more Your love entreating.**
2. **Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer addressing,
Recounting all Your mercies now, And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching You this coming year To keep us in Your faith and fear
And crown us with Your blessing.**
3. **We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of Your mercies:
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r Our grateful song rehearses;
For You have been our strength and stay In many_a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.**

("In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.")

⁸And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. ⁹For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; ¹⁰who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, ¹¹leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." ¹²Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, ¹³therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; ¹⁴and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern." ¹⁵For 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, ¹⁶and 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. ¹⁷A 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 90:1–12

P Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

C **You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

P You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

C **For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

P For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

C **Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE*(God is for us!)*

Romans 8:31b–39

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE*Psalm 103:17a*

P Alleluia.

C **The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him.**

P Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL*(Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.)*

Luke 12:35–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁵[Jesus said:] "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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

- 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.**

SERMON**"A Heart of Wisdom"****THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE***Nicene Creed*

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 worshiped 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** The Word became flesh in order that all people might be revealed as God's children. Let us pray for our own congregation, for the church throughout the world, and for everyone, that we may respond wholeheartedly to the appeal of God's love.
- In this special hour, we pray for the church, the visible sign of Christ's saving presence among us. We pray for pastors, missionaries, and all church workers. We pray for the spread of the Gospel here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for the leaders of our nation and for those entrusted with leadership of the nations of the world, that they strive earnestly for peace and unity among nations. As the new year begins, we pray for a rededication to causes of peace, charity, and justice, that the good and gracious will of God may find expression in our daily lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for those in need of our prayers at this time, including the ill and hospitalized, the homebound, those dealing with declining health, and all those for whom the coming year includes significant challenges. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Trusting in Your mercy, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of time and of eternity.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN BACKGROUND

Part 2

- L** The two concluding stanzas of the Hymn of the Day appointed for New Year's Eve were written by two different authors. Lutheran pastor Gregory Wismar wrote stanza 4, which reflects the custom of remembering the blessed dead at the turn of the year. This new stanza was completed during the preparation of *Lutheran Service Book*. The final stanza, by English clergyman James Hamilton, serves as a prayer for the continuance of God's mercy in the coming year, as those joined in worship together confidently enter another year of God's grace. Together we sing these stanzas.

HYMN

"Across the Sky the Shades of Night"

LSB 899

4. **We now remember, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your caring
Who brightly shine in endless day, Past death and all despairing.
At our life's end, Lord, as Your own, Bring us with them around Your throne,
The joys of heaven sharing.**
5. **Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us,
And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
When heav'n itself shall hide us.**

OFFERING

*The ushers bring forward our gifts as a response to His blessings in our lives.
Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary both before and after services.
Or give online using the QR code in the front of the bulletin.*

PRAYER AT OFFERING

- P** Heavenly Father, receive these gifts joyfully brought to you this day for Your use in Your kingdom. Bless them and all the gifts which you have entrusted to us so that with them, the kingdom is strengthened to Your glory. Strengthened to sustain the saints and for their witness to those who have not yet awakened to know Jesus, Your Son, as their Lord and Savior.
- C** **All that I have is Yours, Lord Jesus. All that I have is You.**
- P** Use then all of our gifts for works of love, mercy, witness, and unto the increase of Your glory.
- C** **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

We ask that all visitors carefully read our communion statement found in the front of this service bulletin before approaching the communion table.

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.** *2 Timothy 4:22*
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.** *Colossians 3:1*
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *Psalms 136*

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and for our salvation that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In Him, the promised of the ages and the light of the world, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, including our dear ones in Your gracious keeping, we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS *(sung)*

**Holy, holy, holy, sing To the heav'nly armies' King.
For His glory, might, and worth Fill the heavens, fill the earth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Hail, Hosanna David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes
In the name of God the Lord, Name of blessings rich out-poured.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,
C **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.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *(sung)*

**O Lamb of God who takes away The whole world's sin, have mercy.
O Lamb of God, grant peace to us, That we from sin may be free.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, Hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*The ushers will direct the congregation to the communion rail via the side aisles. When at the communion rail, you are welcome to kneel, as you are able, or remain standing. If you have come to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. As the pastor/elder offers you the bread (host) please hold out your hand to receive it. If you require a gluten-free host, please signal to the pastor/elder and take a gluten-free host from the center of the plate. Similarly, if you require an alcohol-free alternative to the wine, please take one of the individual cups from the center of the tray. After receiving the Lord's Supper, please return to your seat by the center aisle. **If you are communing at your seat, please get the attention of the pastor/communion assistant, and they will commune you there.***

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow"

LSB 880

1. **Now rest beneath night's shadow The woodland, field, and meadow;
The world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaking And prayer and music making,
Let praise to your Creator rise.**
2. **The radiant sun has vanished, Its golden rays are banished
From dark'ning skies of night;
But Christ, the Sun of gladness, Dispelling all our sadness,
Shines down on us in warmest light.**
3. **Now all the heav'nly splendor Breaks forth in starlight tender
From myriad worlds unknown;
And we, this marvel seeing, Forget our selfish being
For joy of beauty not our own.**
4. **Lord Jesus, since You love me, Now spread Your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would devour me, Let angel guards sing o'er me:
This child of God shall meet no harm.**
5. **My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.**

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.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (*sung*)

Now let Your servants go in peace, Salvation have we seen here.
The Gentiles' light, for Israel joy, In Jesus, Savior most dear.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullyby,
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we will be blessings in Your name in all that we do in our daily living throughout the coming year and at all times; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P 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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C 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.
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.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS –

Liturgy: Pastor Davenport
Preaching: Vicar Fritz Quitmeyer
Director of Music Tom Schroeder
Elder: Andrew MacAfee
Communion Assistants: Caleb O'Hara, Jess Hatten, Mark Ingersoll, Mark Anders
Acolyte: Logan Williams
Altar Guild: Amy Milz and Karen Day
Greeters: Caren VanZant and John Gilbert
Media Team: Diane Christianson and Gillian Drake
Ushers: Team 10, Michael Geary, Captain
Bob Cochran, John Connolly, Joseph Kovatch, John Plater,
Rick Sinclair
Welcome Desk: Pam Bishop

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