AS WE GATHER - The movement from one year to the next provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the year past and look forward to the coming year. As we reflect on the past, many of us will remember particular joys or sorrows. Most of us will have had many ordinary days as well. There have been times we have forgiven others and times we have been forgiven ourselves. In the midst of it all was God's enduring love for us in Jesus. As we look forward to the coming year, we face unknowns. As one familiar prayer expresses, we face this new year "not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us." In the coming year too, God's enduring love will be present with us no matter what. For nothing "in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." With God's enduring love behind us and ahead of us, we enter the new year as people called to love one another and our neighbors in ways that reflect the enduring love of God for us in Jesus.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" by Jeffrey Blersch

OPENING HYMN Across the Sky the Shades of Night LSB 899

[ÆMeans please stand; ÔMeans please be seated]

1 Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleet ing. We deck Your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting; And as the year's last
2 Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer ad dress ing, Re count ing all Your mer cies now, And grateful song re hears es; For You have been our
3 We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of Your mer cies: Your won drous good ness, love, and pow'r Our death and all de spair ing. At our life's end, Lord,
hours go by, We raise to You our earnest cry,
coming year To keep us in Your faith and fear
strength and stay In a dark and dreary day
as Your own, Bring us with them around Your throne,

Once more Your love entreat ing.
And crown us with Your blessing.
Of sorrow and reverses.
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.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES
P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.
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.

EXHORTATION
P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS
P O Almighty God, Merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Your undimming light shines abundantly in our lives. Your light has made our dark days brighter and our light days brighter. We give You thanks for the brightness of Your goodness and glory in our lives. As Your perpetual light shines on us in the coming year, may we so reflect Your light in our community among our neighbors, that many will turn to You; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
2 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
3 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations room And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n and nature sing,
prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,

PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord God, You have done marvelous things in the sight of all people. Most marvelous of all is Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom You have made salvation known. As we reflect the year past, help us to forgive others, to learn from our errors, and to not dwell on our past sins. As we look forward to the coming year, keep us in Your steadfast love and faithfulness, so that our lives show forth Your goodness to the ends of the earth, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.
HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733

1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
3 Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
4 A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,

Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
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!

PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, Your faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Forgive us for the ways our hearts have been drawn away from You during the past year. Draw our hearts ever nearer to You in the coming year, and strengthen us when our faith falters, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—Sing the
2 His arm now bearing, His strength declaring—Sing the

greatness of the Lord! For God my Savior Has shown me
greatness of the Lord! The proud He scatters, Their rule He

favor—Sing the greatness of the Lord! With praise and
shatters—Sing the greatness of the Lord! Op pression

blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and
halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the
PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord God, You lift up the lowly and bring down the arrogant. For the times You have lifted us up when we were down, we give You thanks. For the times when we have been arrogant, and You have chastised us, we also give You thanks. As we enter another year of grace, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that our words and deeds declare Your praise, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
   a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;
   a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
   a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
   a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
   a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
   a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8 a time to love, and a time to hate;
   a time for war, and a time for peace.

9 What gain has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. 12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**EPISODE LESSON**

Romans 8:31b–39

31If 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter; and St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

18Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 2:21

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jesus Name Above All Names

(continued)
SERMON

"THE NAME OF JESUS"

Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:21

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 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.

OFFERING

"I Leave All Things to God's Direction"

by Paul Manz

OFFERTORY

I Leave All Things to God's Direction

LSB 719

1 I leave all things to God's direction; He loves me
2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for
3 My God desires the soul's salvation; My soul He,
4 My God has all things in His keeping; He is the

both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His affection never cease. Upon His hands He did entice, desires to save. Therefore with Christian restoration faith, He gives me laughter after

(continued)
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Refrain: LSB 809; sung by congregation

C Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

P Trusting that the Lord Jesus is even now interceding for us, let us pray for the Church, the world, and ourselves:

C Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

P That the president, district presidents, pastors, teachers, and all servants of our Synod together collaborate with one another to lead us to be faithful witnesses to the love of Christ throughout the world, that petty divisions and profound differences alike be overcome during the coming year, that all churches look not only to their own needs, but to the needs of others:

C Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

P That governments throughout the world bless their citizens with justice, freedom, accountability, and care for those who cannot care for themselves, that our elected leaders serve with integrity and compassion and guide our nation to policies and laws that enable us to thrive and grow, that peace overcome warfare and bloodshed, that our soldiers who serve far away from home during this season find Christ to be their hope and their peace, that our enemies have a change of heart and instead become friends:

C Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

P That those who serve to keep us safe and help us in times of need—police officers, firefighters, nurses, EMTs, utility workers, road workers—carry out their tasks for the good of
all, that the new year brings peace and prosperity to all in our community according to God’s will:

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!**
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**That those who struggle with poor health, [especially . . .], find hope and encouragement in the promise that nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, that those who are lonely during this season of the year experience the presence of Christ in their lives, that the joy of family gatherings continue throughout the year as families love, nurture, forgive, and embrace one another, that those who mourn remember that even in the midst of the worst things in life we are more than conquerors through the Lord Jesus who loves us:**

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!**
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**In thanksgiving for those who have gone before us in the faith and now rest from their labors, that their example of faith, hope, and love spur us on to remain faithful to God, help us as we wait and watch for Christ’s return, and show us the way to love God and another as a witness to the power of the Gospel:**

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!**
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**We commend to the Lord the year past, trusting in Jesus to forgive our sins and to help us to change. We look forward to the coming year as a time of grace, to grow in our faith in Christ and our love for God and for our neighbors. Trusting in Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever, let all God’s people say:**

**Amen.**

**PREFACE**

**The Lord be with you.**

**And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**
SANCTUS [tune: *Hark the Herald*]

\[\text{Music notation}\]

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored.

Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!

Hail, ho-san-na, God most high! Blest is He Who now draws nigh.

In the name of God the King! Hail-le-u-jahs glad we sing:

Hail, ho-san-na! Prais-es due Be for-ev-er, Lord to You!

**LORD'S PRAYER**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share this peace with one another.

(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

[Remain standing]

**AGNUS DEI**

\[\text{Music notation}\]

O lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us peace, the peace of Christ. Amen.
Reminder: gluten free wafer (by holding up an index finger to the elder), and non-alcoholic wine (the white grape juice in the center) are also available.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*When Peace, Like A River*  
LSB 763

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; When
2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

sorrows, like sea billows, roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast
this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trumpet shall sound and the

taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

/Public domain

*Abide with Me*  
LSB 878

1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
2 I need Thy presence every passing hour;
3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;

The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass a way;

(continued)
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 - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide 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.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re-
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

(continued)
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the year now past, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The year is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the new year and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

C Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES

P Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping
C that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Benediction

P The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

1 Now greet the swiftly chang - ing year With
2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God And
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The
5 With Him as Lord to lead our way In
joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
how He shed His in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
Name of names for us He bore. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
want and in pros - per - i - ty, What need we fear in

thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
earth or space In this new year of grace!

6. “All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!” the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

7. God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline Your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this new year of grace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

by Lani Smith

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