

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2024

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

5:00 pm*

*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



AS WE GATHER

Although New Year's Eve is more holiday than holy day, the people of God come together not simply to remember the passage of time but to commend their days to the Lord. Our time is lived in God's hands. The world acknowledges the passage of a year, but the Church sees us another year closer to the Lord's return to finish all things. We live out our days not as the fearful who do not know what is ahead but as the confident who pray for God to finish the days here and begin eternity. Faith to anticipate and greet our eternal future is faith strong enough to meet whatever changes this world holds.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) † [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) † [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

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✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow* (arr. Henry V. Gerike)

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 899 – Across the Sky the Shades of Night



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.

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

† † † **WORD** † † †

INTROIT – Psalm 98:1-3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8

The congregation sings all.

C **Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*
who made hea- | ven and earth.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done mar- | velous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

The Lord has made known his sal- | vation;*

He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

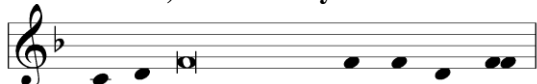
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

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

**Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*
who made hea- | ven and earth.**




KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47



P In peace let us pray to the Lord.




G Lord, have mer - cy.



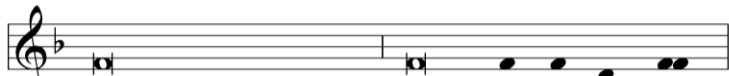
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.




P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



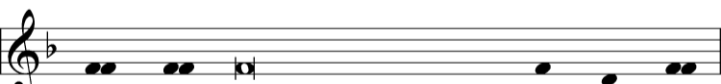
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.

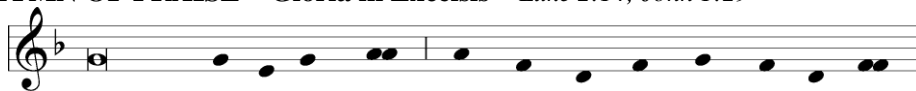


P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE – Gloria in Excelsis – Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY – 2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 30:15-17 – In returning and rest you shall be saved.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL – Psalm 90:12, 14

P Teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.

C **Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

EPISTLE – Romans 8:31b-39 – Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and VERSE – Psalm 103:17

The congregation sings the Alleluias before and after the verse.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

*The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him.*

HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 12:35-40 – Jesus exhorts vigilance every day.

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³⁵ “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ You 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 733 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past



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!

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SERMON – *New Beginnings, Old Habits* – Romans 8:31b-39

CREED – Nicene Creed

C 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

A Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

C Lord, we ask in Your mercy to hear and answer our prayers.

A Almighty God, You created this world from nothing, and by Your will it exists to this day;

C yet there is coming a day when You will be revealed, the world will be judged, and we will be home forever.

- A** We look around our world, and we do not understand it;
- C** **we see things we do not understand, such as violence against others, and our hearts are broken.**
- A** We long for the day Isaiah prophesied that will come;
- C** **today, however, You have made us Your hands, feet, and heart to other people as long as we are here.**
- A** Therefore, we lift up those who are suffering in this life, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, be with them, provide for their needs, and comfort them in their hour of affliction, reminding them of their great reward.
- C** **Help us remember Paul’s reminder that our sufferings are not worthy of being compared with the glory that awaits us.**
- A** You have commanded us to pray for rulers everywhere in Your Word.
- C** **We lift up our President, all members of Congress, and our state and local leaders, and ask that they would be led by Your Spirit to make decisions pleasing to You and helpful for us, as well as all who rule this world.**
- A** For those whose needs are not known to us, we lift them up in silence, knowing You will hear and answer.

A moment of silence is observed.

- A** Lord Jesus, we look forward to the day when tomorrow is no more;
- C** **hear our prayers and keep us in the true faith, so we need not worry about tomorrow or eternity;**
- A** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

OFFERING – *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (arr. David Cherwien)

OFFERTORY – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



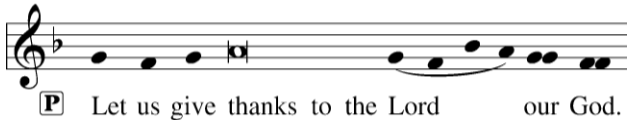
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is truly present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith, we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing. **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper,** please speak with one of our pastors.

SANCTUS – Holy, Holy, Holy – Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 OUR LORD

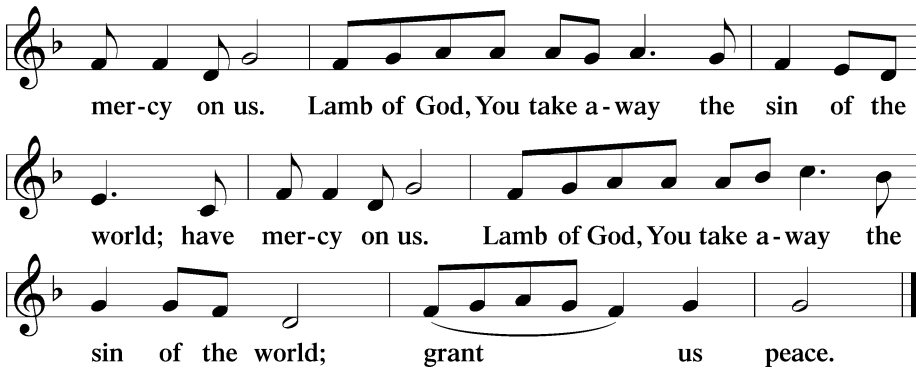
PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – John 20:19

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

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

LSB 366 – It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
- 3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
 Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,
 Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
 And ev-er o’er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Notes:

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

Non-alcoholic (white) grape juice, containing *a trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.

LSB 880 – Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
 2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
 3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
 4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your
 5 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, For God this



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
 rays are ban - ished From dark - ning skies of night;
 star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
 wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.
 night will sure - ly From per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
 But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
 And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
 Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing
 Sweet slum - bers may He send you And bid His hosts at -



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
 sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
 be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
 o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.
 tend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

Text and tune: Public domain



LSB 760 – What God Ordains Is Always Good



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



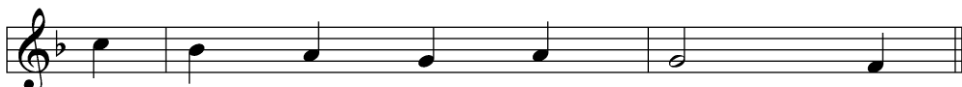
just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
 will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
 thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
 friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm



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



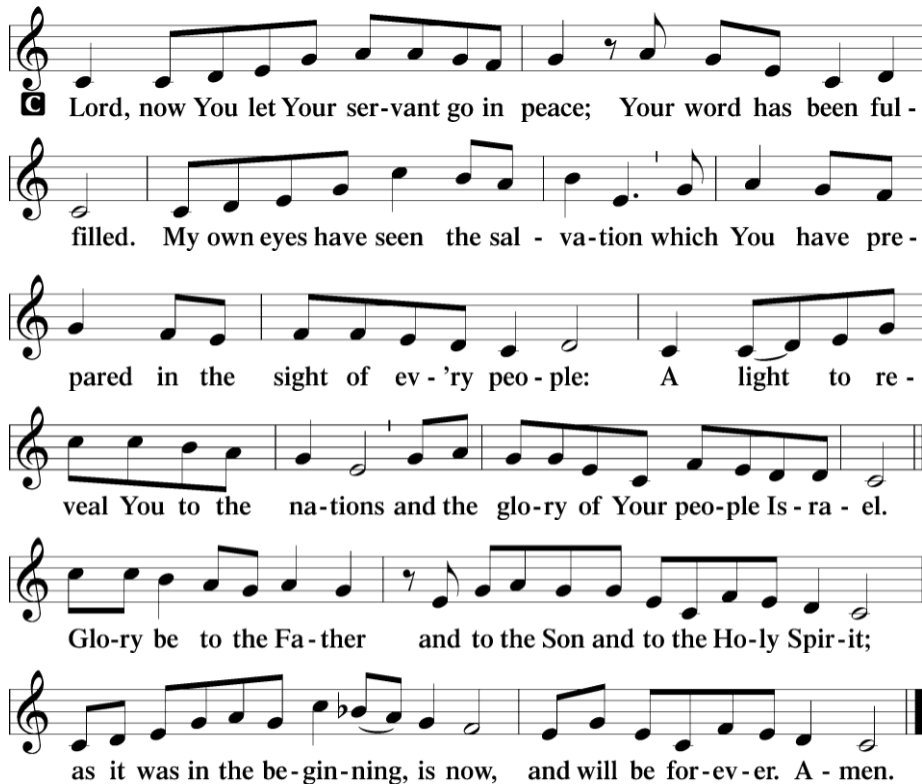
To Him, then, I will yield me.
 Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
 My life to Him com - mend - ing.
 That He has loved me dear - ly.

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.

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Nunc Dimittis – Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser- vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal- va- tion which You have pre-
pared in the sight of ev- 'ry peo- ple: A light to re-
veal You to the na- tions and the glo- ry of Your peo- ple Is- ra- el.
Glo- ry be to the Fa- ther and to the Son and to the Ho- ly Spir- it;
as it was in the be- gin- ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men.

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Let us pray... one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.



HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 896 – Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year



1 Now greet the swift - ly 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



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With
 how He shed His in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With
 Name of names for us He bore. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With



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.

5 With Him as Lord to lead our way
 In want and in prosperity,
 What need we fear in earth or space
 In this new year of grace!

Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

6 “All glory be to God on high,
 And peace on earth!” the angels cry.

△ 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.

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SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (arr. Healey Willan)



If you have any **urgent pastoral needs**,
 please contact [Pastor Beck](#) at 812-332-1668 (ext 3).

Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, January 2.