



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

New
Year's
Eve



Welcome to Worship!

New Year's Eve always provides us with a dual perspective. We look back on the past year of our life—sometimes with joy, sometimes with regret. We celebrate all that we have accomplished, and we lament over all that we have left undone. We look forward with eager anticipation, and we look back with contrition.

New Year's Eve also provides us with a dual perspective in our spiritual lives. We look back on all the blessings God has showered upon us in the past year, and we look forward to the blessings he will continue to shower upon us in the year to come. We look back with gratefulness, and we look forward with joy as we celebrate another year of God's grace.

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our worship today. Scripture tells us that the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in God's Word and a privilege reserved for those who have publicly confessed their oneness in faith. Therefore, we ask guests who are not members of WELS or ELS congregations to refrain from communion until such oneness can be established. We do not intend to be exclusive and unloving. Rather, we desire to faithfully carry out the teaching of Scripture and further explore God's Word with you in the hope that we may eventually enjoy such "communion fellowship" together. For more information, please speak with one of our pastors.

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2022

Living in another year of God's grace

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Christian Worship 820

In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open + and from whom no secrets are hidden.
Amen.

Please kneel

**Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

**I confess that I am by nature sinful.
I am guilty of many sins.
I am distressed by the sins that trouble me.**

For all this I am sorry. I pray for forgiveness.

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

Yes, I believe.

By the authority of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please stand

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. You are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever.

Go in peace.

Amen.

Glory Be to God



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



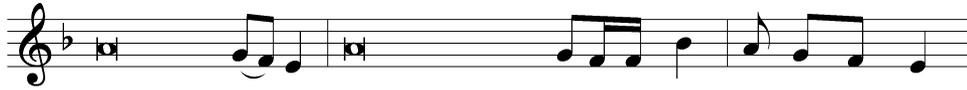
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



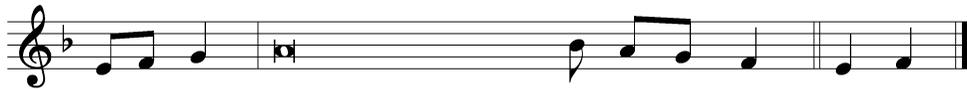
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

By God's grace, there is a time for everything.

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90

Refrain

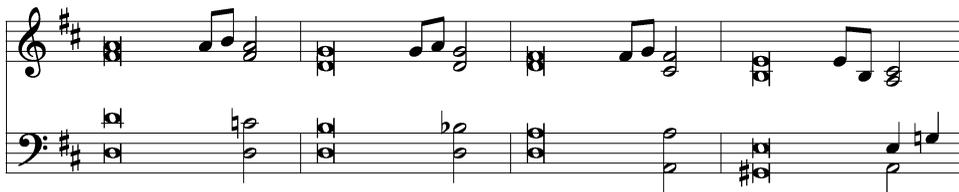


Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you / mortals."

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of our hands.

**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. *Refrain***

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Second Reading

Hebrews 13:5–8,14

By God's grace, we are looking for the city that is to come.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 90:1

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

By God's grace, we keep watch as we wait for the Last Day.

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

Christian Worship 367

Sermon

Hebrews 13:5–8,14

New Year – Same Jesus

Please stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord God, we praise you for sending your Son in our flesh to fulfill the law on our behalf. We thank you that although our sins are many, he is our righteousness and peace.

Teach us to number our days so that the blessings and distractions of this life never turn our hearts from you.

Eternal God, you have been our dwelling place in every generation, but our years pass quickly. As this year draws to a close, prepare our hearts for your Son's return.

Forgive the sins of this past year—those known and those unknown—and keep us faithful to Christ our Lord in the coming year.

Gracious Father, calm the hearts of those who look to the future with foreboding or fear rather than with confidence and hope.

For those who face illness, pain, and suffering, and for those to whom death draws near, give the peace that only you can give.

O God, bless our nation in the new year. Give us honest work, effective education, and leaders of good character.

Save us from violence and discord, and bring a common purpose and harmony where there is division.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

O Lord, in your unending mercy, grant us these things and all else that you know we need.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Amen.

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

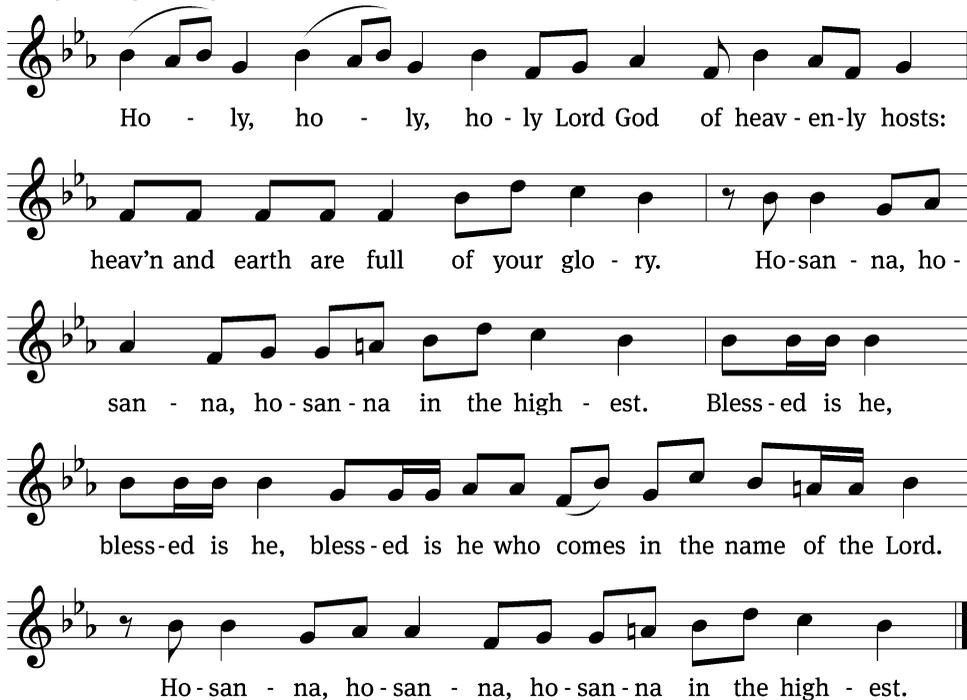
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love.. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



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

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - men.

Be seated

The Scriptures teach us that receiving the Lord's Supper is a public declaration of shared belief. Therefore, we ask our guests who are not members of a WELS or ELS congregation to refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper until they have had the opportunity to talk with one of our pastors about our beliefs and practice.

To receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle and exit via the side aisles. Grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine. Personal prayers for communion can be found on pg. 14 of the service folder.

Distribution Hymns

Abide with Me
Christian Worship 783

Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord
Christian Worship 661

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Go † in peace.

Please stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Eternal God and Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. In the coming year, grant that we may know your presence, see your power at work, and live in anticipation of the day when we will forever be with you, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

Christian Worship 789

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship.

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Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Help me, O God, to be rightly prepared to receive the sacrament. Take away any unbelief and overcome any doubts that I may have. Lord Jesus, give me a believing heart that the gifts and forgiveness offered here truly are for me. Amen.

Personal Prayer for After Communion

I thank you, O Lord my God, that you have not rejected me—a sinner—but have made me worthy to partake of your body and blood in this sacrament. Through the gifts I have received here, cause me to always remember your grace and not live for myself alone, but for you. Amen.

Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Eric Schroeder

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Musicians

Lynn Kozlowski, organ

Communion Assistants

Ron Heins & Jeff Scheibe

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
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Pastor Eric Schroeder
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Pastor Joel Schwartz
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Chinese Outreach

Pastor

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