

Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 31, 2021



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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**New Year's Eve
The Order of Service
(DS 1 p. 151ff.)**

Preservice Music, Call to Worship and Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P Advent and Christmas are colorful seasons in the church year!

C **Gold, green, purple, red, blue, and white adorn our celebration as we prepare for the advent of our Lord.**

P Gold is the colour of wealth and riches.

C **Jesus warns, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."** (Matthew 6:19-21)

P True eternal riches are found in Christ. In Him, we are rich in his forgiveness, rich in eternal life, rich in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, rich in Word and Sacrament, and rich because we have each other to encourage one another in the faith.

C **"Godliness with contentment is great gain. We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. We will be content with food and clothing. ... Instead pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called."** (1 Tim. 6:6-12)

The Opening Hymn: LSB 375, "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us de-scend-ing And in
 3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen-dor Beams with
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
 love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
 tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,
 And to You we come confessing
 That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
 From Your lowly manger cheer us,
 Gently lead us and be near us
 Till we join Your choir above.

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The Invocation

LSB 151

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

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 151

- 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.**

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- 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.**

Absolution

LSB 151

- 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

A Hymn: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Verse 1

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy

Comfort and joy

O tidings of comfort and joy

Verse 2

In Bethlehem in Jewry
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn **(Chorus)**

Verse 3

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name **(Chorus)**

Verse 4

"Fear Not," then said the angel
"let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior,
The true and radiant light,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might." **(Chorus)**

Verse 7

Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface **(Chorus)**

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

C **Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson: *Psalm 90:1–12*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: *Romans 8:31b–39*

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we

are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

The Verse

ALL: Alleluia. The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him. Alleluia.

The Gospel Lesson: *Luke 12:35–40*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 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. 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. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 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. 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.**

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

A Hymn: 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 - joyce! Re-joyce! With
 how He shed His in - fant blood. Re - joyce! Re-joyce! With
 Name of names for us He bore. Re - joyce! Re-joyce! With
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joyce! 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!

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

D 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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The Sermon

The Offering

The Prayer of the Church

The 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 Benediction

LSB 166

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
 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

A Hymn: 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



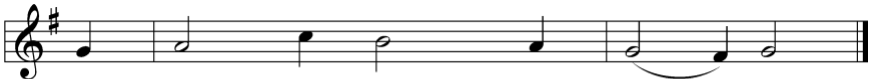
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
 car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past
 guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



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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