

NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31, 2024

"Evaluating Life"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #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



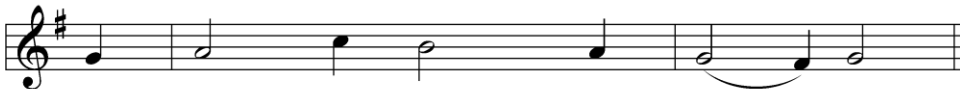
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past
guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



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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(please stand)

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (1 John 1:6-7, 9-10)

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

C: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C: If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

(Silence for personal reflection and confession.)

P: O Almighty God,

C: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have broken our fellowship with You and have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Light and our Salvation. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may walk as children of the light in this world until that time when we finally come to light eternal in Your glorious presence. 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 Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 90:1-12 (*antiphon: v. 17*)

P: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—

C: Yes, establish the work of our hands.

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

C: Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

P: You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."

C: For a thousand years in Your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

P: You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—

C: though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

P: We are consumed by Your anger and terrified by Your indignation.

C: You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

P: All our days pass away under Your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.

C: The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

P: Who knows the power of Your anger? For Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due You.

C: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain 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 ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—

C: Yes, establish the work of our hands.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #818 *"In Thee Is Gladness"*



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 READING Isaiah 51:1-6 (ESV)

Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the LORD comforts Zion; He comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Give attention to Me, My people, and give ear to Me, My nation; for instruction will go out from Me, and I will set My justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, My salvation has gone out, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for Me, and for My arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will never be dismayed.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)

What then shall we say to these things? 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(spoken)*

C: Alleluia! The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him. Alleluia. (Psalm 103:7a)

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:35-40 (ESV)

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

C: *(spoken)* **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: *(spoken)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE 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.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #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!

THE SERMON "Evaluating Life" Text: Isaiah 51:1-6

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #956 "Create in Me"



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new



a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way



from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;



and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "hear our prayer.")

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:26*)

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** (*Revelation 22:20*)

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION (*The prayers: "Before Communing" & "Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament" are printed inside the front cover of the hymnal*)

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #919 "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

**5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.**

**6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.**

Please usher yourselves out. Happy New Year!

