

# New Year's Eve

December 31, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

Service of Holy Communion at the Turning of the Year



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*On this New Year's Eve, the people of Christ gather to give thanks for the blessings received from the Lord's hand during the past year, and to pray for His guidance and direction during the coming new year. Together with the psalmist, we affirm our trust in God's providential care: "My times are in your hands" (Psalm 31:15).*

*Please join your heart and voice in the liturgy, prayers, songs, and readings as indicated. A very happy New Year to you in Jesus' Name!*

## Prayer Before Worship

Eternal 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. Grant that in this New Year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event which gives us joy forever – the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Welcome

### Pre-Service Music

"Come, Let Us Anew" (Daniel Berghout)

### Ringing of the Bells

### Gathering Hymn

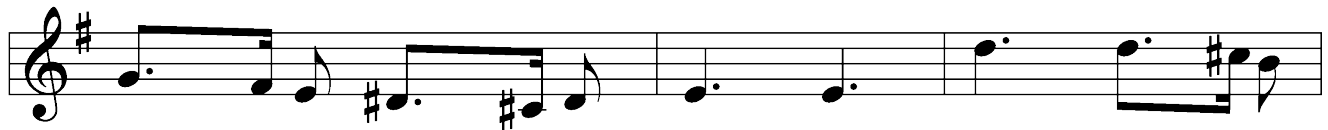
"What Child Is This" (LSB 370)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98  
Tune: English, 16th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Opening Sentences

- P** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** On this New Year's Eve, it is time to reflect and pray, a time to take stock of our humanity and of God's divinity.
- C** **Almighty God, you are the Creator and we are the work of your creating hand. Be with us and guide us as we move from this old year into the coming new year.**
- L** The message of the angel still rings in our ears: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." We have received the gift of all gifts: new life now and forever in Jesus, the Son of God.
- C** **Help us to carry this great good news into each day of the coming new year.**

**P** God is for us, not against us! This is the great good news of Christmas! This is the great good news of God's grace in his Son, Jesus! Let us worship and give thanks to our gracious God for Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**C** **Leaving the past behind, we move forward into the future, trusting in your never-failing mercy, Lord God. As we enter this new year, we commend ourselves, and all that we are and have, into your hands. Amen.**

### Hymn of Praise

(LSB 395, stanza 5)

Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gaily blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way—  
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out!  
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
Great is he, the King of glory!

### Times and Seasons (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 14*)

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

**C** **A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to harvest.**

**L** A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

**C** **A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;**

**L** A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

**C** **A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;**

**L** A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

**C** A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

**L** A time to love, and a time to hate;

**C** A time for war, and a time for peace.

**L** I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

**C** Amen.

### **Prayer for New Year's Eve**

**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.

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## **Spring**

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*Through ev'ry season of my life, your mercies I review.  
When spring times come, give me the grace to see your love anew.*

### **The Word of God**

Luke 4:16-21

<sup>16</sup>And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Response** (*sung*)

(LSB 537, stanzas 1 & 2)

1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee,  
Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,  
Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
Text: Public domain

**Meditation** (followed by silence for reflection)

**Responsive Praise** (*from Psalm 104 and Song of Solomon*)

**L** Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**C** **O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!**

**L** You have set the earth upon its foundations,

**C** **so that it never shall move at any time.**

**L** You appointed the moon to mark the seasons;

**C** **and the sun knows the time of its setting.**

- L** For now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone,  
**C** **the flowers appear on the earth... the fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.**  
**L** I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
**C** **I will praise my God while I have my being.**

## Summer

*Through ev'ry season of my life, your blessings overflow.  
 Oh, give me grace, in summer times, your steadfast love to know.*

### The Word of God

Luke 12:27-31

<sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup>For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Response *(sung)*

(LSB 709, stanzas 1 & 2)

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
     Whose goodness faileth never;  
 I nothing lack if I am His  
     And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
     My ransomed soul He leadeth  
 And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
     With food celestial feedeth.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, Text: Public Domain

**Meditation** (followed by silence for reflection)

**Responsive Praise** (from Psalm 104)

**L** Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**C** **O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!**

**L** You make grass grow for flocks and herds,

**C** **and plants to serve mankind,**

**L** that they may bring forth food from the earth;

**C** **and wine to gladden our hearts.**

**L** oil to make a cheerful countenance,

**C** **and bread to strengthen the heart.**

**L** I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

**C** **I will praise my God while I have my being.**

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### Autumn

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*Through ev'ry season of my life, your steadfast love I trace.  
When autumn times appear, O God, still let me know your grace.*

### The Word of God

Ephesians 1:3-10

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Response** (*sung*)

(LSB 892, stanzas 1 &amp; 4)

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.  
Even so, Lord, quickly come to Thy final harvest home.  
Gather all Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, in Thy garner to abide.  
Come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

**Meditation** (followed by silence for reflection)**Responsive Praise** (*from Psalm 104 and Psalm 65*)**L** Bless the Lord, O my soul;**C** **O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!****L** You crown the year with your bounty;**C** **your wagon tracks overflow with richness.****L** The pastures of the wilderness overflow;**C** **the hills gird themselves with joy.****L** The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,**C** **they shout and sing together for joy.****L** I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;**C** **I will praise my God while I have my being.**

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**Winter**

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*Through ev'ry season of my life, I see your love anew  
Oh, give me grace, in winter times, your mercies to review.*

**The Word of God**

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So

you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Response** (*sung*)

(LSB 733, stanzas 1, 4 & 5)

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

**Meditation** (followed by silence for reflection)

**Responsive Praise** (*from Psalm 104, Psalm 147 and Genesis 8*)

**L** Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**C** **O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!**

**L** He sends out his command to the earth;

**C** **his word runs swiftly.**

**L** He gives snow like wool;

**C** **he scatters frost like ashes.**

**L** While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,

**C** **summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.**

**L** I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

**C** **I will praise my God while I have my being.**

*A time of silent prayer follows, allowing us time for meditation upon God's abiding presence and grace throughout the seasons of life.*

## **Prayers of the People**

**P** Let us pray for the church, the earth, and all those in need, in the name of the One who is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

*Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence. Each petition closes with the words,*

*"Lord, in your mercy," Please respond by saying, "**hear our prayer.**"*

*The prayers conclude with:*

**P** O God, who shines light into darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts through the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' Name.

**C Amen.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

**L** Let us pray: Loving God,

**C you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

**P** On this milestone day for looking back at what was and looking ahead to what will be, let us examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins, seeking his forgiveness and mercy.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** For when we have followed too much the desire of our own hearts and followed our own will, instead of your will during this past year,

**C Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** For when we have been satisfied with benefits and blessings from your hand, but have failed to heed your challenge to be your witnesses in the world during this past year,

**C Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** For when we have been selfish with the material gifts of life and have not freely given to those in need during this past year,

**C Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** For when we have wasted our time and misused our talents, thereby missing opportunities to further your kingdom during this past year.

**C Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** For when we have been thoughtless in our judgments and hasty in our condemnation of others during this past year,

**C Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** For when we have kept anger and hatred within our hearts, holding onto old hurts and grievances, and have not sought out reconciliation and peace during this past year,

**C Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** For when we have contributed to increasing division and strife among people, and have not done what we could to promote your saving peace and love during this past year,

**C Forgive us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us according to your loving kindness. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us as we begin this new year. Amen.**

**P** This is the message that we have received, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The sins of this old year have been forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God. Enter into the New Year with God's peace and joy.

**C Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

**P** The peace of Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

## Eucharistic Prayer

**P** Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

**C** **Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, 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.**

## Distribution of the Sacrament

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

## Agnus Dei



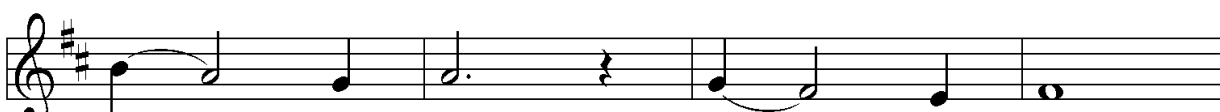
☉ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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, grant us peace.

## Music at the Distribution

Choral Anthem

"A New Year Carol"  
(Benjamin Britten)

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear  
For to worship God with, this happy New Year  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.  
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,  
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.  
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,  
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.*

## "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

(LSB 366)



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: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt.  
Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900  
Text and tune: Public domain

# "Across the Sky the Shades of Night"

(LSB 899)



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



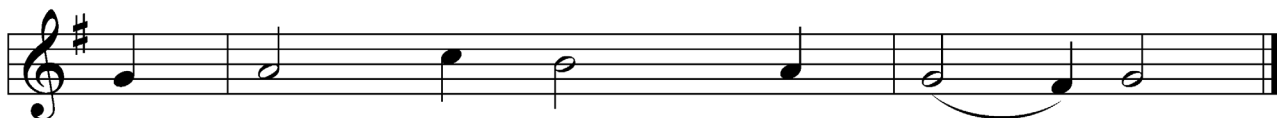
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In  
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And  
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our  
 car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past  
 guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



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.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): James Hamilton, 1819-96, alt.; (st. 4): Gregory J. Wismar, 1946  
 Tune: attr. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485-after 1546  
 Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Public domain  
 Text (st. 4): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318  
 Tune: Public domain

## **Dismissal**

**P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

**L** Let us pray:

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the Body and Blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P** God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

May He grant you grace and peace at the ending of this old year and the beginning of the new year.

**C Amen.**

**P** All flesh is grass, but the Word of God remains forever.

May He who is eternal keep you in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

**C Amen.**

**P** The past, the present, and the future rest in God's gracious hands.

May the Lord watch over your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

**C Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Sending**

**L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Recessional Hymn

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (LSB 358)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the  
13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a  
15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my  
bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber  
us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.  
set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.  
pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valtin Schumann  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

"Finale" from Variations on Auld Lang Syne (Eugene Thayer)



## **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Steve Tracy
Communion Lay Assistant	Steve Rempe
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Matthew Rempe
Crucifer	Grace Rempe
<b>Ushers</b>	
	Barbara Pate
Altar Care	Karen Kemmet
AV Operators	St. John's AV Team
Welcome	Joseph Godwin



**We're glad you chose to worship with us at this special service.  
Please join us as we continue to celebrate.**

:

Sunday, January 4 (Epiphany of Our Lord)  
Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 11 (Baptism of Our Lord)  
Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.



This weekend's  
**altar flowers**  
are given by donations  
to the flower fund.

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Connect on social media

...AND MORE!

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**5952 Franconia Road**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310**



*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

**St. John's Lutheran Church Staff**

Pastor	Rev. John Meehan
Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office/Facilities Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

**Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

**Contact Us**

Office: 703-971-2210

ECEC: 703-971-3581

Website: [www.sjlc.com](http://www.sjlc.com)

**Emails**

Pastor: [pastor.meehan@sjlc.com](mailto:pastor.meehan@sjlc.com)

Director of Discipleship: [jennifer.hills@sjlc.com](mailto:jennifer.hills@sjlc.com)

Director of Music: [david.leahey@sjlc.com](mailto:david.leahey@sjlc.com)

Office: [office@sjlc.com](mailto:office@sjlc.com)

Finance: [finance@sjlc.com](mailto:finance@sjlc.com)

ECEC Director: [ecec@sjlc.com](mailto:ecec@sjlc.com)

ECEC Administrator: [ecec.admin@sjlc.com](mailto:ecec.admin@sjlc.com)