

✠ Opening Prayer ✠

P We close out the year in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responses: TLH #110 *"Across the Sky the Shades of Night"*

C ♪ *Across the sky the shades of night*

This New Year's Eve are fleeting.

We deck Thine altar, Lord, with light,

In solemn worship meeting;

And as the year's last hours go by,

We raise to Thee our earnest cry,

Once more Thy love entreating.

Confession of Our Sins

We approach God recognizing that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C *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.*

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

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

C ♪ *Before the cross subdued we bow,*

To Thee our prayers addressing,

Recounting all Thy mercies now,

And all our sins confessing;

Beseeking Thee this coming year

To keep us in Thy faith and fear

And crown us with Thy blessing.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

**☞ ♪ We gather up in this brief hour
The memory of Thy mercies:
Thy wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r
Our grateful song rehearses;
For Thou hast been our Strength and Stay
In many a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.**

☞ Jesus Christ is the satisfactory payment for our sins, and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

**☞ ♪ Then, O great God, in years to come,
Whatever may betide us,
Right onward through our journey home
Be Thou at hand to guide us;
Nor leave us till at close of life
Safe from all perils, toil, and strife,
Heaven shall enfold and hide us.**

Confession of Faith

Explanation of the 1st Article

☞ I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.



Through the Church Year In Word, Song, and Prayer



P Lord God, we are glad and thankful to be here this New Year's Eve to honor You and to receive blessing from Your Holy Word. Be with us in our worship and bless our fellowship together for Your mercy's sake. Teach us, encourage us, strengthen us, and enable us throughout the New Year so that we flee temptation and honor You in all that we think, say, and do. Hear and receive our prayers this evening and accept the praise we bring as we lift our voices in song and prayer. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Epiphany



John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

P Lord God, Jesus Christ, You came bringing life and light and hope to a world that lies in spiritual darkness and under the shadow of darkness. By Your great signs and teachings, You revealed Yourself to Your disciples as the Son of God and Savior. By Your Word, You have also revealed these truths to us, through faith. For this we thank and praise You. Amen.

Epiphany Hymn: TLH #134:1,2,5

"Songs of Thankfulness..."

Lent



Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called

to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks unto You that You sent Your only Son to die for our sins on the cross. Your love is made so evident during the Lenten season of the church year, for there is no greater demonstration of true love than the willing sacrifice that our Savior made on our behalf. Humble us at Your throne of grace as we repent of our sins during this season and throughout the year, that we may rejoice in the forgiveness we have in Christ. Amen.

Lenten Hymn: Projector

"The Lamb, The Lamb"

Easter



John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where

the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them

when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, Easter is such a glorious and splendid celebration of Your grace and mercy. As we look forward to this celebration, focus our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts on spreading this most important news of the resurrection. Our hope and courage is found in this truth, that we shall not die, but we shall all be changed, in the twinkling of an eye when our Savior raises us from the dead to live eternally. In 2025, our loved ones—Bill, Loren, Iona, Janene, Mark, Sue, and Mary (among others)—departed this life. We praise You, O Lord, for giving them faith in their risen Savior and His promises. As we long for the day when we will be raised together and gather around Your heavenly throne, keep this thought ever before us: "I know that my Redeemer lives, what comfort this sweet sentence gives, He lives, He lives, who once was dead, He lives my ever-living head!" Amen.

Choir

"O God, My Faithful God"

(The Congregation will join in singing verses 5-6.)



Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

P O Holy Spirit, Divine Counselor and Comforter, on Pentecost You undid the events of Babel and used languages to gather and establish the Holy Christian Church, and we benefit from Your coming even today. Continue to bless the Word of Truth, by which You bring sinners to repentance and faith. Divine Helper, having brought us to faith and called us to righteousness, You have commissioned our bodies as living temples for You to dwell. Continue to remind us that we are God's beloved children by faith in Christ and fill us with grace and zeal to be bold witnesses of our Lord. Amen.

Trinity Sunday & Season



Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

P Holy, Holy, Holy is Your name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our hearts sing the praises of Your holy name as we cry out "Abba, Father" in our heartfelt prayers. And as we turn to Your Son Jesus Christ in repentance and faith—trusting in Him alone for salvation—and to the Holy Spirit who works in us to will and to do the good pleasure of our God, lead us and guide us to give honor to the Trinity in all that we do and say. Teach us to put our trust and hope not in the things of this world, but rather in the sure and certain love that You have so lavishly demonstrated time and time again throughout history and in our day-to-day lives. This past year, you brought Julie, Izzy, Wesley, Silas, and Brenna into Your family as they were baptized in Your triune name. We thank You for giving them this glorious washing of forgiveness and salvation, and we ask you to enable both them and us to use everything that You have given us to serve Your most holy name. Amen.

Trinity Hymn: TLH #400:1-2, 4, 6

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Advent



Luke 1:78-79

Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; ⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You, and as we focus our thoughts on that season of the church year when You prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth, we pray that in this season when we are reminded so much of the precious gift of salvation which your divine love has given to the world through the prophecies of hope and comfort. As you have brought light to our darkness, help us to be lights to the world also. And as You once came, You have also promised to return, so help us to ever look forward to that day with hope and expectation, trusting Your promise to take us to that heavenly home which You have personally prepared. Amen.

Advent Hymn: TLH #62:1, 3 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Christmas



Luke 2:1-11

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be



registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks unto You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. The message of Salvation in Christ's name is meant to gladden every heart. And so, we pray this Christmas season—send out the light of your name into the hearts of those who do not yet have the sure and certain hope of salvation through Your life, death, and resurrection. Amen.

Christmas Hymn: TLH #87:1-2

"Joy to the World"

✠ The Sacrament of Holy Communion ✠

The Words of Institution

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed 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!

C Amen.

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

Distribution Hymns:

WS #755; TLH #116

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

Hymn: *Back Page*

"Another Year of Grace, My Friends"

✠ ✠ ✠

Officer Installation – This Sunday, at the conclusion of the service, the newly elected servants of the congregation will be installed in their offices.

Thank you! On behalf of the called workers of St. John's, thank you so much for your generosity this Christmas season. We greatly appreciate your love and support and are all grateful to service this congregation.

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under OneLicense #A-7126690 and Concordia Publishing House, license #130002755. Scriptures quoted are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®) © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

✠ 11 ✠

Another Year of Grace, My Friends

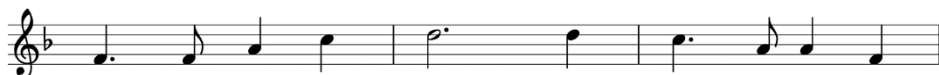
(Should All God's Blessings Be Forgot)

Chad M. Seybt, 2016

Traditional Scottish



1. Should all God's bless - ings be for - got And
The LORD, I AM, my Shep - herd is My
 2. He leads me to life - giv - ing streams To
 Though there be some dark days a - head They



nev - er brought to mind? Should we for-get what
 needs He sat - is - fies. He gives to me my
 drink with - out a price; He leads me in His
 can - not hide my God, For He is with me



grace He's shown Each day to all man - kind?
 dai - ly bread And all I need for life.
 right - eous-ness, The right - eous-ness of Christ.
 as He said With Shep - herd's staff and rod.



An - oth - er year of grace, my friends, has come and now is gone. An -



oth - er year of grace begins; For - give - ness in God's Son.

3. The Lamb of God my Shepherd is, His life He lived for mine.
 His blood was spilled; His body killed To be our sacrifice.
 The living LORD my Shepherd is. Though He was crucified,
 His body rose in three days time And now stands glorified. *Refrain*

4. Surely His mercy and His grace Shall follow all life long.
 And I will dwell within His house to praise Him with this song:
 All glory be to You, O Christ, Who cam e to set me free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever One, Through all eternity. *Refrain*