

**Our Lord God is in
control of all things
past, present, and future.**

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2024

Hymns: 367 604 601 820

Opening Hymn: #367 "Across the Sky the Shades of Night"

1 Across the sky the shades of night this New Year's Eve are fleeting
We deck your altar, Lord, with light, in solemn worship meeting,
And, as the year's last hours go by, we raise to you our earnest cry,
Once more your love entreating.

2. Before the cross, subdued, we bow, to you our prayers addressing,
Recounting all your mercies now and all our sins confessing.
We ask you, Lord, this coming year to keep us in your faith and fear
And crown us with your blessing.

3. We now remember, as we pray, our dear ones in your caring
Who brightly shine in endless day, past death and all despairing.
When ends our life, Lord, as your own, bring us with them around
your throne,
The joys of heaven sharing.

4. Then, gracious God, in years to come, we pray your hand may
guide us,
And, onward through our journey home, your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life is safe from peril, toil, and strife,
When heav'n itself shall hide us.

The Lord is Our Refuge

**A Service for New Year's Eve
December 31, 2024**

Christ Lutheran Church, Cochrane, WI

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

P: Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees,
C: Then I will keep them to the end.

P: Direct me in the path of your commands,
C: For there I find delight.

P: How I long for your precepts!
C: Preserve my life in your righteousness.

P: Lord God Almighty, we stand in violation of your holy will. We understand that “there is no one who does good, not even one.” In mercy, you sent your Son, the spotless Lamb of God, to offer himself as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
C: We ask your forgiveness in him, our dear Savior.

P: As a called servant of God’s Word, I assure you that Jesus Christ lived in your place. He gave his life as your substitute. Your sins are forgiven. In faith, live as a forgiven child of Christ. In the peace of forgiveness let us sing his praise:

Hymn: #604 “When All Your Mercies, O My God”

1. When all your mercies, O my God, my waking soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I’m lost in wonder, love, and praise.

2. Ten thousand thousand precious gifts my daily thanks employ,
Nor is the least a cheerful heart that tastes these gifts with joy.

3. Through ev’ry passing phase of life your goodness I’ll pursue
And after death, in distant worlds, the glorious theme renew.

4. Through all eternity to you a joyful song I’ll raise,
But, oh, eternity’s too short to utter all your praise.

P: Let us pray: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

EPISTLE READING – Hebrews 13:1-8

(The writer to the Hebrews concludes his letter with words of advice and encouragement.)

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not forget to show hospitality, for this is how some entertained angels without even knowing it. ³Remember those in prison as if you were in chains with them, and those who are mistreated as if you could feel it.

⁴Let everyone think highly of marriage and the marriage bed kept pure, because God will judge those who sin sexually – whether single or married.

⁵Let your way of life be free from a love for money. Be satisfied with what you have, because he said, “I will never leave you or desert you.” ⁶And so we may say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders who have spoken the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their behavior, and imitate their faith.

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The Psalm for the Day: Psalm 8

(We marvel at the Lord’s mercy, that he should care so much for us sinners.)

I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I consider your heavens,
The work of your fingers,

What is man that you are mindful of him,
The Son of Man that you care for him?

I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
And crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
You put everything under his feet.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 6:24-34

(The Savior speaks words of comfort and correction to his people. When we worry and are concerned over this world's needs, then we need to put first things first. God is faithful and deals with us as a loving Father, knowing and supplying all that we need and more.)

²⁴No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

²⁵So I tell you, stop worrying about what you will eat or drink to stay alive or what you will wear on your bodies. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

²⁶Look at the birds in the air. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; but your Father in heaven continues to feed them. Aren't you worth more than they?

²⁷Can any of you add a single hour to your life by worrying?

²⁸And why worry about clothing? Notice how the flowers grow in the field. They do not work or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into an oven, how much more certainly will he put clothing on you – you who trust him so little?

³¹Do not worry, then, and say, "What are we going to eat?" or "What are we going to drink?" or "What are we going to wear?"

³²The people of this world concern themselves with all these things – your heavenly Father knows you need them all – ³³but you, concern yourselves with God's rule and his righteousness above everything else, and all these things will also be given to you.

³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: **The First Article of the Creed**
(From Luther's Small Catechism)

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.

All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn: #71 "The Old Year Now Has Passed Away"

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
Come now before him and rejoice.

2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
He formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he comes to feed,
The sheep who by his hand were made.

3. O enter then his gates with joy,
Within his courts his praise proclaim.
Let thankful songs your tongues employ,
O bless and magnify his name.

4. Trust that the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood
And shall from age to age endure.

The Sermon: Psalm 46

THE LORD IS OUR REFUGE

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
An ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
And the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
And the mountains quake with their surging.
¹¹ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

The Prayer for the Church:

P: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever
and ever.

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

P: It is proper, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our
gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all
you have made.**

P: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and
tell us that we are much more valuable than they are.

C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

P: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even
life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

**C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you
continue to grant them to us.**

P: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which
strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for
service.

**C: Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we
may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.
(*Silent prayer.*)

P: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and
compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your
people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by
night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives
to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we
began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

The Prayer for Communicants

P: Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude we now come to your table to
receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it
strengthen us to remain in you as you remain in us, so that we bear
much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others.

C: Amen.

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 Words of Institution

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Closing Prayer

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for this foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and drink. Through this feast you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. We thank you for all your faithful who have gone before us and entered your eternal rest in the past year. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people in the new year and for however many days you have planned for us. Preserve us in the most holy faith until that glorious day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb. We offer these petitions to you through our human brother, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit as the one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: #820 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising 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,
Still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!
