

The Eve of the
NEW YEAR

December 31, 2025

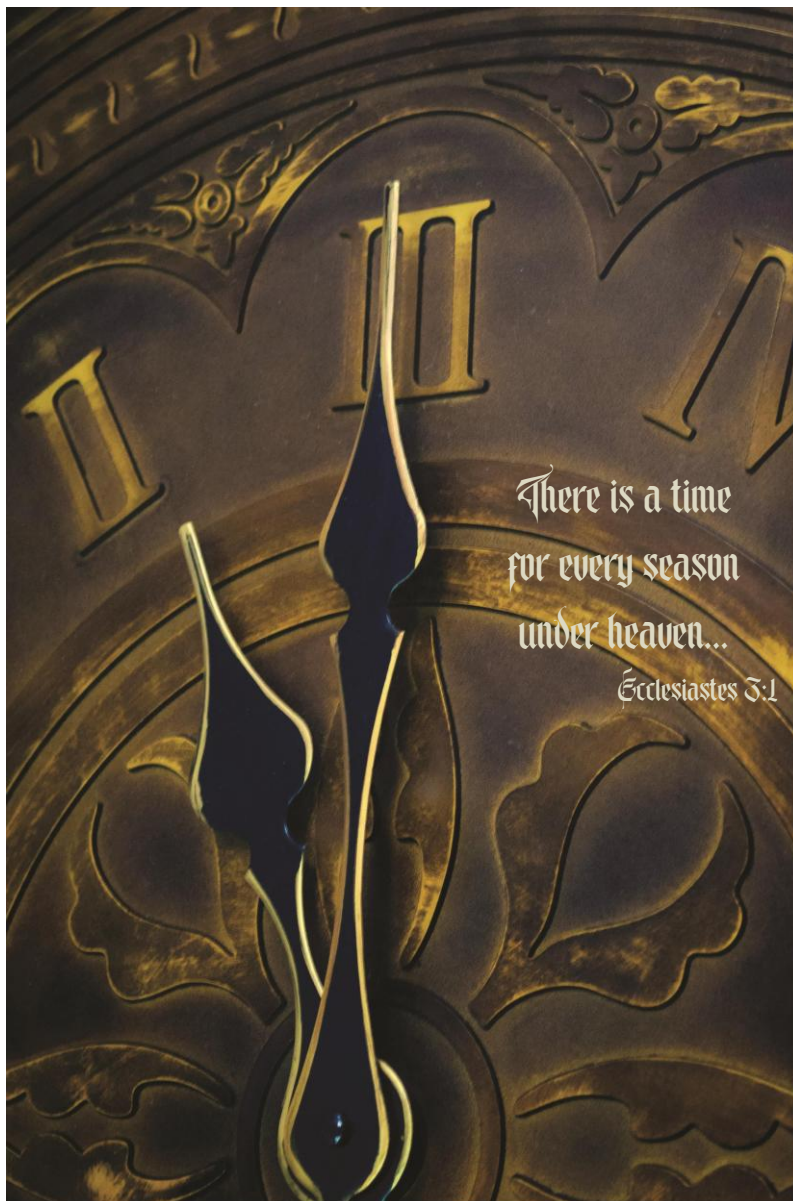


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*There is a time
for every season
under heaven...*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



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December 31, 2025

New Year's Eve: A Time for Every Season

PRELUDE

"March of Time"

Karl Osterland

AS WE GATHER

Temporal time proceeds swiftly, sometimes without our keen awareness. We are overwhelmed by responsibilities, the frailties of human existence—emotional stress, physical illness, and spiritual warfare. The sanctity of our baptismal Christian life contradicts the standards of culture. And in the midst of balancing these complexities time passes quickly. Days, months... and years. Yet God, in His infinite way, brings us into an eternal awareness that surpasses human understanding. His time is marked by peace, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. These divine gifts and expressions of our giving God enable us to contemplate eternal time---time that will be enjoyed with saints, angels---and even Christ Himself!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Rock of Ages"

LSB 761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

OPENING VERSES

Ecclesiastes 3

Pastor: Creator of the heavens and the earth, Redeemer of nations, Sanctifier of believing hearts

People: **we praise You now and forevermore.**

Pastor: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born, a time to die,

People: **a time to plant and a time to harvest,**

Pastor: a time to kill and a time to heal,

People: **a time to tear down and a time to build,**

Pastor: a time to cry and a time to laugh,

People: **a time to grieve and a time to dance,**

Pastor: a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones,

People: **a time to embrace and a time to turn away,**

Pastor: a time to search and a time to lose,

People: **a time to keep and a time to throw away,**

Pastor: a time to tear and a time to mend,

People: **a time to be quiet and a time to speak up,**

Pastor: a time to love and a time to hate,

People: **a time for war and a time for peace.**

A TIME TO GRIEVE

(Admitting guilt and expressing sorrow for sin.)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us examine ourselves before God at the close of the year, confessing our sin and seeking His forgiveness.

People: **For having set our minds on earthly things and not on things above.**

Pastor: For being slothful, for prioritizing inefficiently,

People: **pursuing the trivial and petty rather than the meaningful and important.**

Pastor: For being envious of others,

People: **discontented with the material gifts that come from Your bountiful goodness,**

Pastor: For being greedy and selfish, desiring material wealth, significant stature, instant gratification,

People: **and all things that proceed from human endeavors and success,**

Pastor: For expressing unjust anger and rage,
People: **and being unable to harness our emotions which frequently damage and manipulate others.**

Pastor: For being loveless to our family and neighbors,
People: **withholding words of encouragement and praise.**

Pastor: For willfully expressing pride and arrogance, suppressing humility and graciousness,
People: **forgive us, O Lord.**

A TIME TO BE SILENT

(Reflection upon sin)

A TIME TO HEAL

(God's forgiveness)

Pastor: Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven.
(2 Co 7:10, Ro 8:1,37, 1 Jn 1:7, Mt 9:2)

People: ♪ **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, You sent us Your only Son that we might be saved, and You gave to Him the name of Jesus. May we begin the New Year trusting in Your saving name and live our days in His service and praise. We pray in the name of Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

A TIME TO PLANT

(Proclaiming and hearing the Word of God.)

EPISTLE

Romans 8:31-39

(Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God

who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“All Beautiful the March of Days”

Austin Lovelace
The Cathedral Choir

GOSPEL

Luke 1: 67-79

(The tender mercy of God)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

People:



⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:



HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Christ, the Same"



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

HOMILY

"A Few More Ticks 'til '26"
Rev. Peter Nickel, Cathedral Pastor
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

Psalm 121

CONFESSION OF FAITH *Martin Luther's Explanation to the First Article*

LSB 790

♪ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

People: (Spoken) I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

♪ Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, Uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

People: (Spoken) He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

♪ Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen Sound from His people again.
Gladly forever adore Him!

A TIME TO LOVE

(Returning a portion of our gifts to God.)

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We continue to gather offerings utilizing the offering receptacles (one at the back of the church and one at the Gratiot entrance in the parish hall), through the mail, and online.



VOLUNTARY

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Paul Manz

A TIME TO SPEAK AND LISTEN

(Prayers for the people of God.)

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.
People: Christ, have mercy upon us.
Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us; O Christ, hear us.
People: O Christ, graciously hear us.
Pastor: O Jesus, Sun of righteousness,
People: O Jesus, Light of the world,
Pastor: O Jesus, Bright morning star,
People: have mercy upon us.
Pastor: O Jesus, Righteous Branch,
People: O Jesus, Root of Jesse
Pastor: O Jesus, Key of David,
People: have mercy upon us.
Pastor: O Jesus, Prince of peace,
People: O Jesus, King of glory,
Pastor: O Jesus, Lord of lords,
People: have mercy upon us.
Pastor: O Jesus, Alpha and Omega,
People: O Jesus, Ancient of Days,
Pastor: O Jesus, King eternal,
People: have mercy upon us.
Pastor: O Jesus, Good Shepherd,
People: O Jesus, True Vine,
Pastor: O Jesus, Bread of Life,
People: have mercy upon us.
Pastor: O Jesus, Emmanuel,
People: O Jesus, Savior of the world,
Pastor: O Jesus, the Word made flesh,
People: have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

A TIME TO BUILD

(Faith strengthened and sustained by God's body and blood.)

The Order of Holy Communion

THE PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*

People:



C And with thy spir - it.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Lam 3:41*

People:



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *Ps 100:4*

People:



C It is meet and right so to do.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is the Lord of Time, who has done all things at the proper time, and who has given us His Son at the right moment, so that we might be called children of God.

SANCTUS *Is 6:3*

LSB p. 195

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Co 11:23-25*

THE PAX DOMINI *Jn 20:19*

Pastor: The peace of Lord be with you all.

People: ♪ Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI *Jn 1:29*

LSB p. 198

♪ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

“Abide With Me”

LSB 878



1 A - bidē with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bidē.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bidē with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bidē with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bidē with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bidē with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

DISMISSAL

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB p. 199

♪ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all
people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.


THE THANKSGIVING *Ps 107:1*

Pastor: Just as You knew the best time to send your Son, You knew the best time to bless us in this holy supper. You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we praise You for it. Rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we may serve You with all the time You have given us, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ **Amen**

BENEDICTION *Num 6:22-26*

Pastor: The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the † Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.'"

People: 
☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

ANTHEM


"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"
(A Choral Blessing for the New Year)

Lutkin
The Cathedral Choir


RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LSB 733



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.

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

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

POSTLUDE

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Healey Willan