



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FRIDLEY, MN**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2025**

HYMN.....*TLH 123, st. 1-4, 8*

LITURGY:.....*The Order of Vespers, TLH, p. 41 f.*

P: We begin our New Years Eve worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C [♫]: **Amen.**

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C [♫]: **And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C [♫]: **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**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. Hallelujah!**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:.....*With stanzas from TLH 124*

P: With the entrance of another year, we are reminded of the past and we look forward to the future. As we look back on the past, what ought each of us confess about ourselves to God?

C: **As I look back in the past, O Lord, I'm reminded of all my failures to keep what You command. My past is filled with my mistakes, deficiencies, and weaknesses, especially in light of Your most holy Law. I also realize that there are sins I have done that I didn't even know I did. Before You, O God, I am entirely sinful and deserve Your wrath and eternal punishment. But just as a New Year is dawning, by faith I know that You are merciful and that my future is filled with hope. Through the life and merit of Christ, You have rescued me and brought me deliverance from sin and death.**

C [♫]: Our faithful God, we cry to Thee:  
Still bless us with Thy favor,  
Blot out all our iniquity,  
And hide our sins forever.  
Grant us a happy, good new year  
And, when the hour of death draws near,  
A peaceful, blest departure. (TLH 124, st. 4)

C [♫]: Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And, with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing.  
Upon the cross Your Savior died,  
For you He has been crucified.  
In Him you are forgiven!

C [♫]: Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks to Thee  
In this new year we render;  
Thy reign hath kept Thy people free,  
Hath shown Thy mercies tender.  
Thou hast redeemed us with Thy blood,  
Thou art our Joy, our only Good,  
In life and death our Savior. (TLH 124, st. 2)

FIRST READING: ..... *Isaiah 54:9-10*

SECOND READING:..... *Philippians 1:21-28*

CONFESSION OF FAITH:..... *Luther's Explanation to the 1<sup>st</sup> Article*

**C:** 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.

HYMN:..... *TLH 116: To the Name of Our Salvation*

SERMON:..... *Lamentations 3:22-26*

<sup>22</sup>Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" <sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. <sup>26</sup>It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

## **A Thankful Heart Filled With Hope for the Future**

RESPONSE: ..... *TLH 72, st. 1,3: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

**C [♫]:** Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
And let your lights appear!  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising,  
And soon He draweth nigh;  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle!  
At midnight comes the cry.

Ye saints, who here in patience  
Your cross and sufferings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever,  
When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
The Lamb ye shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him  
Your diadems of gold!

**HYMN:**.....*Tune: TLH 375*

1. Another year is past and gone,  
And cannot be recaptured.  
Its days are done, and I've advanced,  
Still closer to my parting.  
O Lord, forgive my sins, I pray  
And keep me on the narrow way  
As now arrives another year.

2. In Christ, You've claimed me as  
your own  
He is my Lord and Savior.  
My confidence is firmly based  
Upon Your Word most faithful.  
Your promises are good and true,  
And always surely gracious  
Most certainly I thank You.

3. Another year is now a gift,  
A time of grace and favor.  
May I fore'er in word and deed  
Give praise and honor to Your  
name.  
Help me to share Your Gospel Word  
With those who still are dead in sin,  
That they might know their Savior.

4. I know not what this year will bring,  
What evil lurks, or good will come.  
I know that all is in Your hands  
And e'er what comes is for my good.  
You'll never leave, nor let Your child  
Go through the year without Your  
hand.  
For sure, You'll guide and keep me.

5. Help me, O Lord to follow You  
O, keep me in Your care each day.  
Keep me e'er faithful to Your Word,  
That never from its truth I stray.  
It is a lamp unto my feet,  
The light that leads me, without fail,  
Upon the path to heaven.

6. If this year now will be my last  
And all my years are gone and past,  
Lord, keep me in Your loving arms  
And bear me to my home in heaven.  
There I shall see my Savior dear,  
My Lord, Who is forever near,  
And I'll know peace forever.

**OFFERING:** ..... *Interlude*

## **NEW YEARS PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

### **PREPARATION FOR LORD'S SUPPER:...** *Luther's Christian Questions*

**P:** Do you believe that you are a sinner?

**C: Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.**

**P:** How do you know this?

**C: I know this from the Ten Commandments, which  
I have not kept.**

**P:** Are you sorry for your sins?

**C: Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.**

**P:** What have you deserved to receive from God because of  
your sins?

**C: I have deserved His anger and displeasure, temporal death, and  
eternal damnation.**

**P:** Do you also hope to be saved?

**C: Yes, this is my hope.**





**P:** Whom do you then trust?

**C:** **I trust in my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**P:** What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

**C:** **He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.**

**P:** How do you know this?

**C:** **From the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament and by His body and blood which are given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.**

**P:** Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

**C:** **Yes, I believe this.**

**P:** What leads you to believe this?

**C:** **I am moved to believe this from the word of Christ: "Take, eat, this is My body ... drink of it, all of you, this is My blood."**

**P:** What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

**C:** **We should proclaim and remember the shedding of His blood and His death, just as He taught us, "Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

**P:** Why should we proclaim and remember His death?

**C:** **We should do this so that we learn: to believe that no creature could possibly do enough to pay for our sins; only Christ, true God and true man, could; to be frightened by our sins and consider them to be great indeed; and to find joy and comfort in Him, knowing that we are saved through this same faith.**

**P:** What caused Jesus to die and do what was needed to pay for our sins?

**C:** **Christ did all this because of His great love for the Father and each one of us, as the Scriptures teach.**

**P:** Finally, why do you want to go to the Sacrament?

**C:** **From this I learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of His great love for me. I also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.**

**P:** As you have confessed your sins, I, as a called servant of the Lord Jesus, in His place and by His command, forgive you all your sins. And now, abide in Him, that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming!

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** .....

**DISTRIBUTION:** ..... *Meditative Music*

**RESPONSE: ....TLH 306, st. 8: Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Hast Prepared**

**C [♫]:** For Thy consoling Supper, Lord,  
Be praised throughout all ages!  
Preserve it, for in every place  
The world against it rages.  
Grant that this Sacrament may be  
A blessed comfort unto me  
When living and when dying.



**CLOSING PRAYER:..... Luther's Evening Prayer**

**C:** We thank Thee, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept us this day; and we pray Thee that Thou wouldst graciously forgive us all our sins where we have done wrong, and graciously keep us this night. For into Thy hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with us that the wicked Foe may have no power over us. Amen.

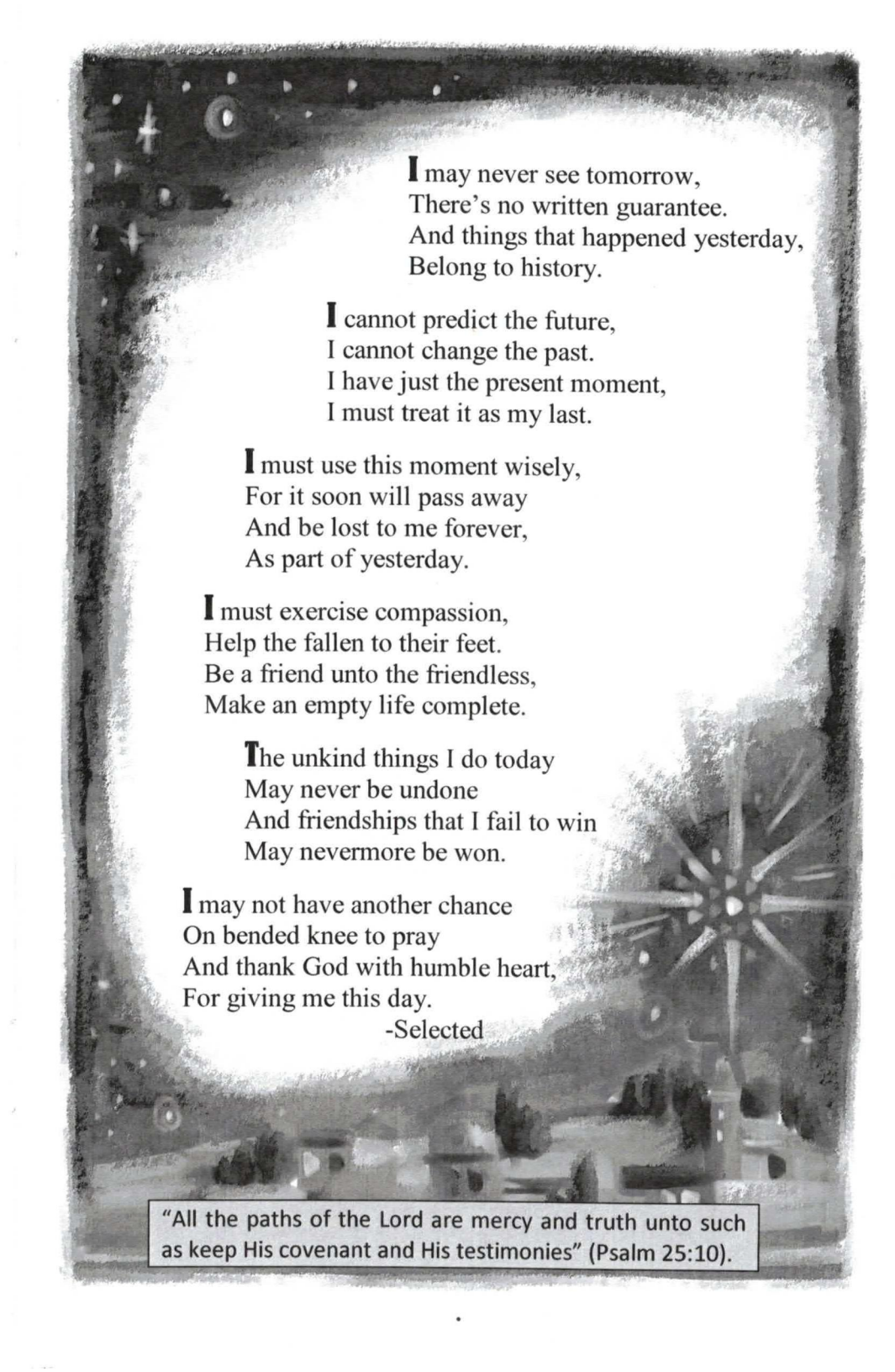
**BENEDICTION:..... Based Upon Isaiah 41:10**

**P:** Now receive the Lord's blessing: Fear not, for the LORD is with you; Be not dismayed, for the LORD is your God. The LORD will strengthen you, Yes, the LORD will help you, The Lord will uphold you with His righteous right hand.

**C [♫]: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:.....TLH 558**

Lord, make me to know my end and the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. Another year of my pilgrimage has passed. I am a year nearer to my death, nearer to judgment, nearer to eternal life with Christ, my Lord. Where shall I run as the sins of the past year and the transgressions of all my years rise to condemn me? Lord, to You alone I flee for refuge in these last hours of the waning year. For the sake of Your own Son, whom You sent to be the Savior of all people, be gracious to me, and pardon my iniquity. Trusting in the merits of my Savior, I come boldly to Your throne of grace, in full confidence that there I shall obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Oh, satisfy me early with Your mercy that I may rejoice and be glad all my days. Let me, in a manner befitting a child of God, conclude the old year and begin the new, a year in which You would be pleased to dwell among us continually in Your goodness and means of grace, for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord, Amen.



**I** may never see tomorrow,  
There's no written guarantee.  
And things that happened yesterday,  
Belong to history.

**I** cannot predict the future,  
I cannot change the past.  
I have just the present moment,  
I must treat it as my last.

**I** must use this moment wisely,  
For it soon will pass away  
And be lost to me forever,  
As part of yesterday.

**I** must exercise compassion,  
Help the fallen to their feet.  
Be a friend unto the friendless,  
Make an empty life complete.

**T**he unkind things I do today  
May never be undone  
And friendships that I fail to win  
May nevermore be won.

**I** may not have another chance  
On bended knee to pray  
And thank God with humble heart,  
For giving me this day.

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"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such  
as keep His covenant and His testimonies" (Psalm 25:10).