

# St. Luke's Lutheran Church



4801 Anderson Ave.
Manhattan, KS 66503
785-539-2604
www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

## New Year's Eve Service December 31, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Guest Speaker: Rev. Larry Boye

Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor William Prann, Director of Christian Education Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music

> NEW YEAR'S EVE (Series A)

#### **WELCOME**

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, <a href="mailto:office@stlukesmanhattan.org">office@stlukesmanhattan.org</a>, or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

#### **AS WE GATHER**

Although not an official church holiday, New Year's Eve has been, for many centuries, a time for Christian people to gather for worship. The psalmist exclaims: "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1). The changing of the calendar year is a most appropriate time for God's people to bless Him and thank Him for the time of the old year now ending and for the time yet to come in the new year. King David, the psalmist, shares this blessed invitation with us: "Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!" (Psalm 34:3). In another of his thoughtfully reflective psalms, David says to the Lord: "But I trust in You, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand" (Psalm 31:14–15a). In our worship this New Year's Eve, we echo the faith-filled expression of King David, joyfully committing our time and commending our times to our gracious and faithful God.

#### **IMAGE ON THE COVER**

[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks." Luke 12:35–36

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **▼ PREPARATION**



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. John Kelly, 1833-90, alt.

Tune: Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz, 1738, Frankfurt

Text and tune: Public domain

#### Stand

The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

## **INVOCATION**

- $holdsymbol{P}$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

LSB, p. 243

- P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
- the light no darkness can overcome.
- P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
- and the day is almost over.
- P Let Your light scatter the darkness
- and illumine Your church.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

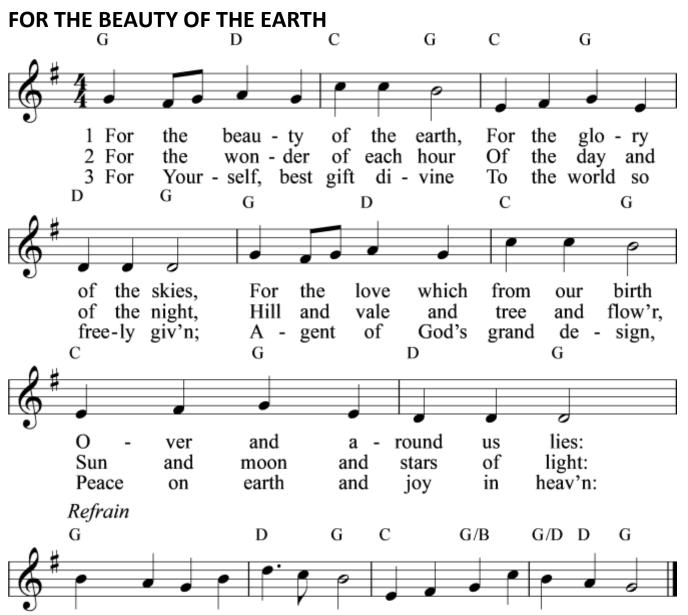
- P Reflecting on the year that is passing, let us make confession to God, our heavenly Father.
- Gracious Lord, as this year now ends, we confess our sins, once again beseeching Your mercy and asking Your forgiveness. We are fallen creatures, stained by sin from the beginning of our lives. During the year now closing, we have sinned against You repeatedly in thought, word, and deed. We deserve nothing but Your condemnation and punishment. Yet, as penitent people, we come before You, humbly asking Your pardon and seeking the peace that only You can grant.
- For the sake of Jesus Christ, God grants forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the H Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **₩** Word **₩**

#### INTROIT

Psalm 98:1-3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8

- P Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- **P** The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 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.
- P Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.



Christ, our Lord, to You we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**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.

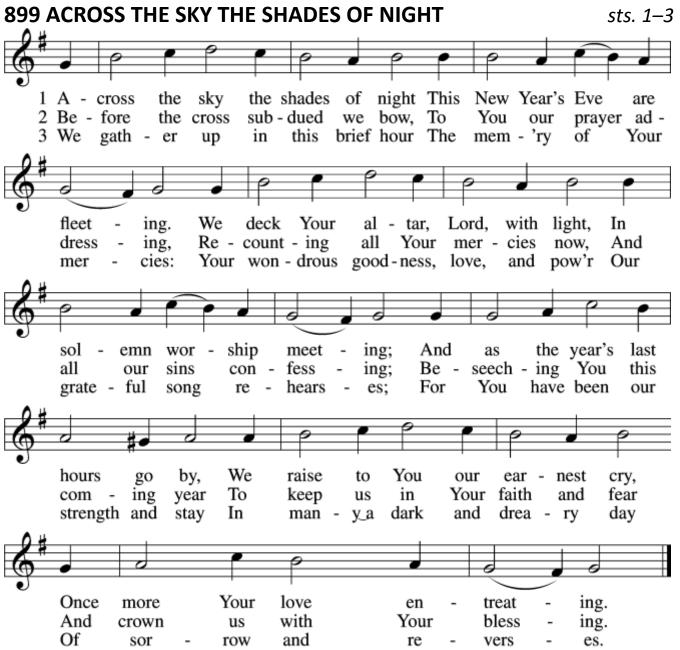
- In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit

#### **HYMN BACKGROUND**

Part 1

The appointed Hymn of the Day for New Year's Eve is "Across the Sky the Shades of Night." The hymn text, primarily written by English author James Hamilton, reflects several Christian New Year's Eve customs popular in nineteenth-century Europe and America. In that era, many churches would be specially decorated with lanterns and candles and other sources of lights that would remain lit from the time the worshiping community gathered in the early evening and well into the nighttime hours, past when the shades of night faded away. Often, the hymn singing, Bible reading, and prayers would last for hours, so that the assembly was still at worship when the New Year began at midnight. At that hour, the "watch time" was completed. Joyfully, the bells of the churches would be rung to welcome the new "Anno Domini"—the Year of the Lord. With resounding joy, we sing the first three stanzas of this hymn.



Text: James Hamilton, 1819-96, alt.

Tune: attr. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485-after 1546

Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

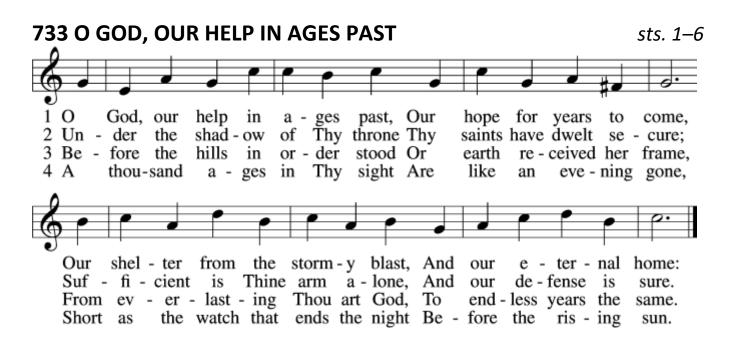
("In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.")

<sup>8</sup>And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. <sup>9</sup>For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; <sup>10</sup>who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, <sup>11</sup>leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." <sup>12</sup>Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, <sup>13</sup>therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; <sup>14</sup>and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern." <sup>15</sup>For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, <sup>16</sup> and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses";

therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

17 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727 Text and tune: Public domain 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home! **EPISTLE**Romans 8:31b-39

(God is for us!)

If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>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? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

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

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### Stand

VERSE Psalm 103:17a

- P Alleluia. The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him.
- C Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**Luke 12:35-40

(Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>35</sup>[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

## 663 RISE, MY SOUL, TO WATCH AND PRAY



Text: Johann Burkhard Freystein, 1671–1718; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, 1694, Dresden, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## **SERMON**

Stand

#### **NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead.

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life 
→ of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Word became flesh in order that all people might be revealed as God's children. Let us pray for our own parish community, for the church throughout the world, and for everyone, that we may respond wholeheartedly to the appeal of God's love.

In this special hour, we pray for the church, the visible sign of Christ's saving presence among us. We pray for pastors, missionaries, and all church workers. We pray for the spread of the Gospel here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

- hear our prayer.
- P We pray for the leaders of our nation and for those entrusted with leadership of the nations of the world, that they strive earnestly for peace and unity among nations. As the new year begins, we pray for a rededication to causes of peace, charity, and justice, that the good and gracious will of God may find expression in our daily lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- We pray for the members of the armed services and for all first responders and those who maintain the safety and well-being of our communities. And we pray for those who are working on our behalf as the old year closes and the new year begins that they may rejoice in their labor today and each day. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P We pray for those in need of our prayers at this time, including the ill and hospitalized, the homebound, those dealing with declining health, and all those for whom the coming year includes significant challenges. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- We pray for our household of faith and all who joyfully watch with us for the coming of the Lord among us. Gratefully, we remember those whose earthly journeys are now complete and who are in our God's eternal care, [including . . .]. Bless and inspire us by the goodly heritage that has come to us through the witness of the faithful from generations past. Guard us by Your grace, O Lord, and guide us as the Holy Spirit works in us and through us in the coming months. Grant us peace of heart and mind and fill our days with faith and hope and love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P Trusting in Your mercy, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of time and of eternity.
- C Amen.

Sit

#### **OFFERING**

There are several ways to give.

1. Please send your offerings to

St. Luke's Lutheran Church 4801 Anderson Avenue Manhattan, KS 66503

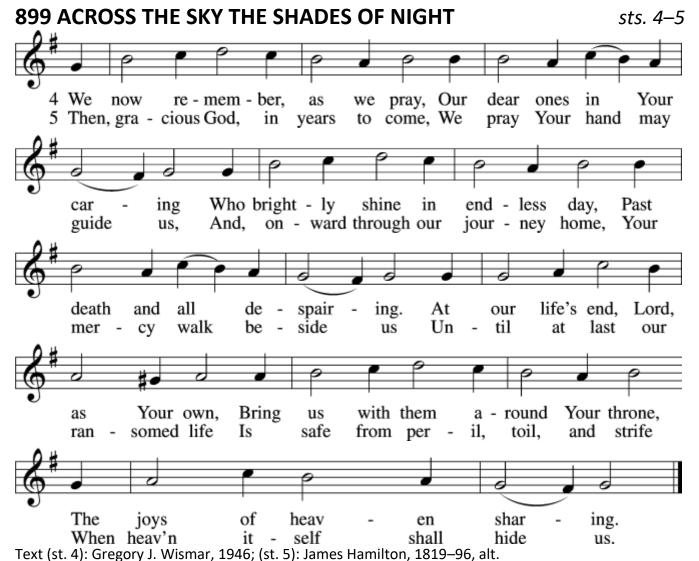
2. Electronic Funds Transfer - Sign up through the church office.

#### **HYMN BACKGROUND**

Part 2

The two concluding stanzas of the Hymn of the Day appointed for New Year's Eve were written by two different authors. Lutheran pastor Gregory Wismar wrote stanza 4, which reflects the custom of remembering the blessed dead at the turn of the year. This new stanza was completed during the preparation of *Lutheran Service Book*. The final stanza, by English clergyman James Hamilton, serves as a prayer for the continuance of God's mercy in the coming year, as those joined in worship together confidently enter another year of God's grace. Together we sing these stanzas.

#### Stand



Tune: attr. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

Text (st. 4): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002155

Text (st. 5): Public domain

Tune: Public domain

## **COMMUNION ADDRESS**

We are about to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In this sacrament we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in, with and under the Bread and Wine. If you have not worshiped at our altar before, please visit with Pastor Schmidt or an elder before communing. If you are not ready to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. Place your arms over your chest in an "X", and you will receive a blessing.

## **▼ SACRAMENT**

#### **PREFACE**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

#### **PROPER PREFACE**

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, gracious God, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to be our Savior. You have graciously given us the gift of faith and have safely brought us to the conclusion of another year of grace. Grant that we may remain strong in faith and imbued with Your goodness throughout the coming year, that with joy and thankfulness we may receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, which come to us in our Lord's body and blood.
- C Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

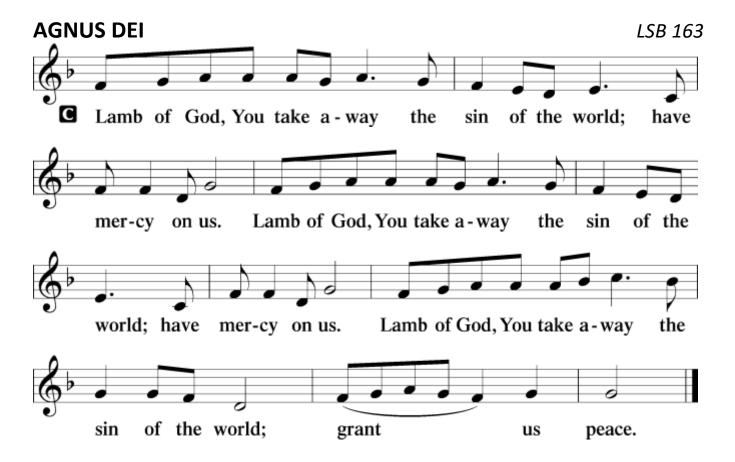
- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

#### **PAX DOMINI**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Sit

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, s He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. They then distribute the body and blood of Christ to those in the pews who are unable to come forward, and then finally to those who come forward.

Distribution and dismissal will be done by half tables.





5 Well He knows what best to grant me;

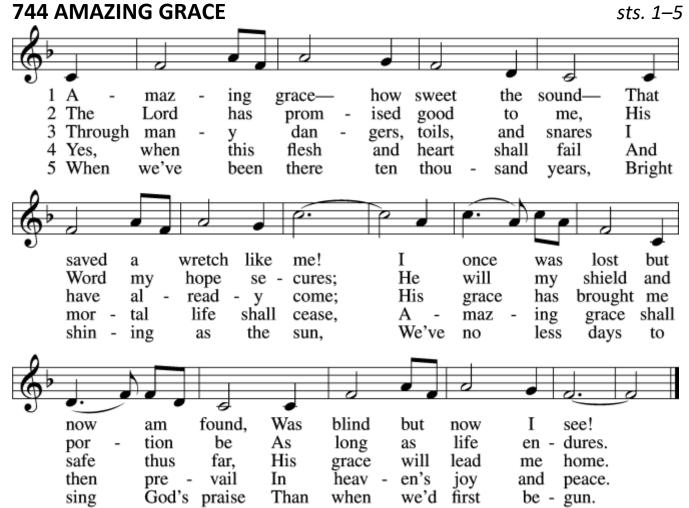
All the longing hopes that haunt me,

Joy and sorrow, have their day.

I shall doubt His wisdom never; As God wills, so be it ever; I commit to Him my way. 6 If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen;

All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding, Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace.

Text and tune: Public domain

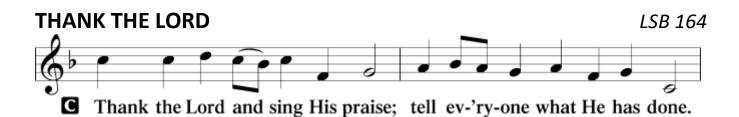


Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond

Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati

Text and tune: Public domain

#### Stand





Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



#### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we will be blessings in Your name in all that we do in our daily living throughout the coming year and at all times; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### **BENEDICAMUS**

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### **BENEDICTION**

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
  The Lord look upon you with favor and 

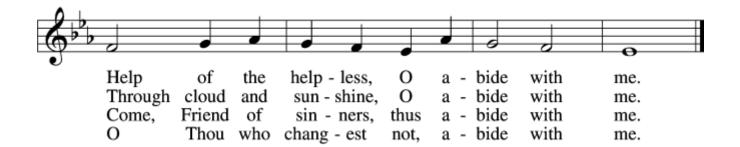
  give you peace.
- C Amen.

#### **GREET ONE ANOTHER**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "The Lord be with you," "Peace be with you," or "The peace of the Lord be with you".

#### **878 ABIDE 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!
- 6 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.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV<sup>®</sup> Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version<sup>®</sup>), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

