

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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January 1, 2025 † New Year's Day

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 90 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Our Worship Service

will be Posted to Our Website tomorrow at midafternoon.

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

LSB 902



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; Our hearts in
2 Un - seal our lips to sing Your praise In end - less
3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O ho - ly,
△ 4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
hymns through all our days. In - crease our faith and
ho - ly Lord Most High!" And in the light of
Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed



light di - vine, And let Your truth with - in us shine.
light our minds; And set us free from doubt that blinds.
that blest place We then shall see You face to face.
Trin - i - ty, Be praise through-out e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Lutherisch Hand-Büchlein, 1648, Altenburg; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Cationale Germanicum, 1628, Gochsheim

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Father, and of Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Responsive Reading

(Selected verses of Psalm 90 & 95 NKJV - A Call to Worship)

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

C **Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

P For He is our God,

C **And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

P LORD, You have been our dwelling place

C **in all generations.**

P Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,

C **Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

P The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

C **Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.**

P Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy,

C **That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!**

P Let Your work appear to Your servants,

C **And Your glory to their children**

P And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us,

C **And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.**

Confession

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

Almighty and most merciful Father, I have strayed from Your paths like a lost sheep. Out of my heart have come evil thoughts, emotions, and desires. I have offended against Your holy law of love in my words and actions. I am truly sorrow for all my offenses of thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on me and forgive me for Jesus' sake! Restore me and revive my spirits, according to the promise You have declared to me in Jesus Christ, my Lord. Fill my heart with Your love that I may lead a godly and righteous life, to the glory of Your name.

Absolution

The LORD declares His forgiveness through His called servant.

Lift up your hearts in peace and with joy. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in mercy and love. By the command and in the stead of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

New Year's Day Prayer

P We pray:

Eternal God and Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on the immensity of Your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of Your Son and walking in the way of His peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Scripture Readings

Numbers 6:22-27 ²² *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ²⁴ "The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." ' ²⁷ "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."* (NKJV)

Romans 1:1-7 *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ⁵ Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; ⁷ To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (NKJV)

Confession of Faith

(Hymn 953 LSB)

**We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever present help in need, praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds, all creation He upholds.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne and for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we rescued from all misery.**

**We confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us in all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity, praise forever be to Thee. Amen**

Hymn 896 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

LSB 896



1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With
2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God And
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With
how He shed His in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With
Name of names for us He bore. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With
vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With



thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.

Text: Cithara Sanctorum, 1636, Levoca; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008, alt.

Tune: Alfred V. Fedak, 1953

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Sermon Text Psalm 67 *God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us. Selah ² That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. ³ Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁴ Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah ⁵ Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁶ Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. ⁷ God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him. (NKJV)*

Sermon Theme: A Timely Prayer for Us and All Others

1. That God bless us with His saving favor in our time of grace.
2. And as the saving message of the Gospel goes out that all the nations of the world be blessed in their time of grace and join us in praising God.

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new

a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way

from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church for the New Year *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

**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.**

Hymn 899 Across the Sky the Shades of Night

LSB 899

1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are
 2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -
 3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your
 4 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your
 5 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may



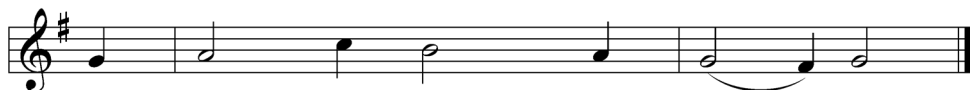
fleet - ing, We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
 mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
 car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past
 guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last
 all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this
 grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our
 death and all de - spair - ing, At our life's end, Lord,
 mer - cy walk be - side us Un - til at last our



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,
 com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear
 strength and stay In man - y a dark and drea - ry day
 as Your own, Bring us with them a - round Your throne,
 ran - somed life Is safe from per - il, toil, and strife



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.
 And crown us with Your bless - ing.
 Of sor - row and re - vers - es.
 The joys of heav - en shar - ing.
 When heav'n it - self shall hide us.

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): James Hamilton, 1819–96, alt.; (st. 4): Gregory J. Wismar, 1946

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

Text (sts. 1–3, 5) and tune: Public domain

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Responsive Reading (NKJV)

(Psalm 111)

P Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart,

C In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

P The works of the LORD are great,

C **Studied by all who have pleasure in them.**

P His work is honorable and glorious,

C **And His righteousness endures forever.**

P He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;

C **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

P The works of His hands are verity and justice;

C **All His precepts are sure.**

P They stand fast forever and ever,

C **And are done in truth and uprightness.**

P He has sent redemption to His people;

C **He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name.**

P The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

C **A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.**

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **♫ Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn 896 st.5-7 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

LSB 896

5 With Him as Lord to lead our way

In want and in prosperity,

What need we fear in earth or space

In this new year of grace!

6 "All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline Your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this new year of grace.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today **10:00 a.m. New Year's Day Worship Service**
1/1/24

Sunday **10:00 a.m. Epiphany Sunday Communion Worship Service**
1/5/25 **Installation of Church Officers**

Annual Reports are due by Sunday, January 12th and sent to Gary Fenton, and the Annual Report meeting will be held on the following Sunday of January 19th.

Installation of Church Officers will be conducted this Sunday during the worship service.

SSLS will continue to be on their Christmas break until January 3, 2025.

Contribution Envelopes If you haven't already picked up your contribution envelopes for 2025, they can be found in your box.