

# New Year's Eve



*Because of the  
LORD's great love we  
are not consumed,  
for his compassions  
never fail. They are  
new every morning;  
great is your  
faithfulness.*

*Lamentations 3:22-23*



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 31, 2016

# Service of Light

## WELCOME

### STAND

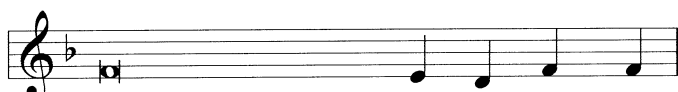
M: Minister C: Congregation



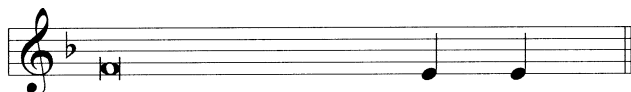
M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



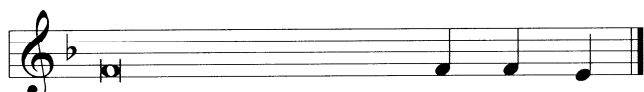
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.



M: Be our light and scat - ter the dark - ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly, blest is he,  
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it: God  
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where - fore you are through all the earth



And blest are you, his on - ly Son.  
Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
C: Amen.

BE SEATED

## LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU *Psalm 141*

C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.  
O Lord, I call to you come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.  
Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
C: Amen.

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 51:1-6 (NIV)

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of

singing. Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.”

## PSALM 37

*(The vocalist will sing the verses, the congregation may join in the refrains and last verse.)*



Do not fret because of evil men  
or be envious of those who do wrong;  
for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.

### *Refrain*

Trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
Delight yourself in the LORD  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,  
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

### *Refrain*

I was young and now I am old,  
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.  
Turn from evil and do good;  
then you will dwell in the land forever.

For the LORD loves the just  
and will not forsake his faithful ones.  
The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

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.

### *Refrain*

## PSALM PRAYER

M: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

## SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 1:22-25 (NIV)

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

## GOSPEL

Luke 13:6-9 (NIV)

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any.

Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

## HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
*Christian Worship #441*

## SERMON

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)  
Great Is Your Faithfulness

Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

## OFFERING

*Members of Grace respond to their Savior’s love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation’s work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God’s kingdom.*

*Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass along. Thank You!*



*If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.*

1. A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are  
 2. We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of your  
 3. Be - fore the cross, sub - dued, we bow, To you our prayers ad -  
 4. And while we pray, we lift our eyes To dear ones gone be -

fleet - ing. We deck your al - tar, Lord, with light, In sol - emn wor - ship  
 mer - cies. Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our grate - ful song re -  
 dress - ing, Re - count - ing all your mer - cies now And all our sins con -  
 fore us, Safe home with you in Par - a - dise, Where Je - sus will reign

meet - ing, And, as the year's last hours go by, We raise to you our  
 hears - es, For you have been our strength and stay In man - y a dark and  
 fess - ing. We ask you, Lord, this com - ing year To keep us in your  
 o'er us, And ask of you, when life is past, To re - u - nite us

ear - nest cry, Once more your love en - treat - ing.  
 drear - y day Of sor - row and re - vers - es.  
 faith and fear And crown us with your bless - ing.  
 all at last With those who've gone be - fore us.

### WE REMEMBER DEPARTED MEMBERS

*In this New Year's Eve service we remember the Christian brothers and sisters of Grace whom the Lord has welcomed home to heaven this past year.*

M: O, Lord, you turn mortals back to dust. You sweep them away in the sleep of death...Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. We remember our family members who have escaped the sorrows of this world and now, because Jesus is their Savior, enjoy the eternal pleasures of heaven.


LaVerne Hawkins  
 Art Seaman  
 Charles Wilkinson

Lupe Robles  
 Ron Salgado  
 Orville Rohlck

Dorothy Rauh  
 John Lietha  
 Ron Stevens

## HYMN

## Across the Sky the Shades of Night Christian Worship #69 st. 5



5. Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, What - ev - er may be -  
tide us, Right on - ward through our jour - ney home, Oh, stay at hand to  
guide us, Nor leave us till, at close of life, Safe from all per - il,  
toil, and strife, Heav'n shall en - fold and hide us.

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Tonight we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Jesus urges all who receive it to do so in a worthy manner in order to receive the blessings he promises. He also gives warning that no one receive it to their judgment. For this reason, we practice Member Communion. If you are a guest at Grace tonight and not a member of another WELS congregation, we would ask that you speak with one of the pastors about a time to discuss what exactly God says about Holy Communion before you come to the Lord's Table. We look forward to that opportunity!*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, Where, at last, I'll find eternal rest.*

*Day by day, I know you will provide me Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me O'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow; I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow; Till in glory I behold your face.*

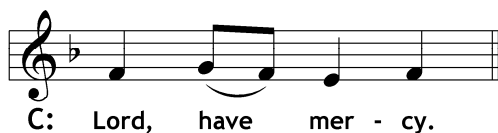
*Oh, what joy to know that you are near me When my burdens grow too great to bear;  
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me, You will hold me ever in your hand.  
Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.*

## STAND

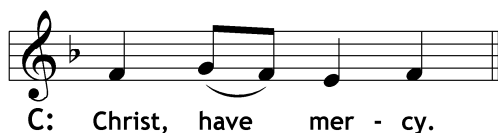
## LORD, HAVE MERCY

## Kyrie

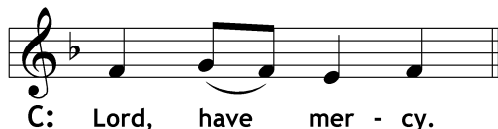
M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



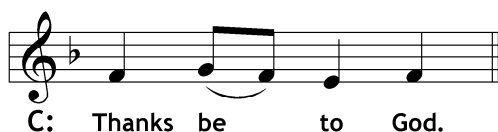
M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



## LORD'S PRAYER

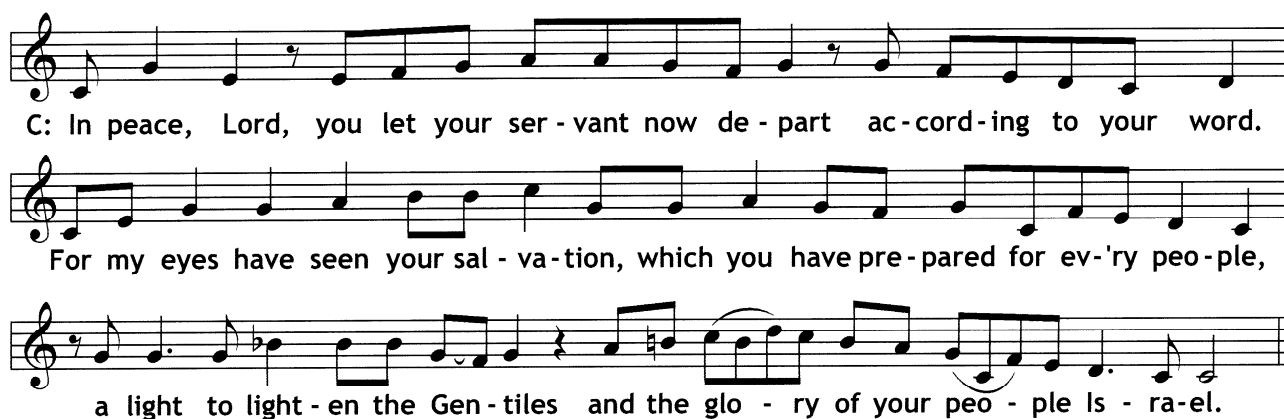
C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

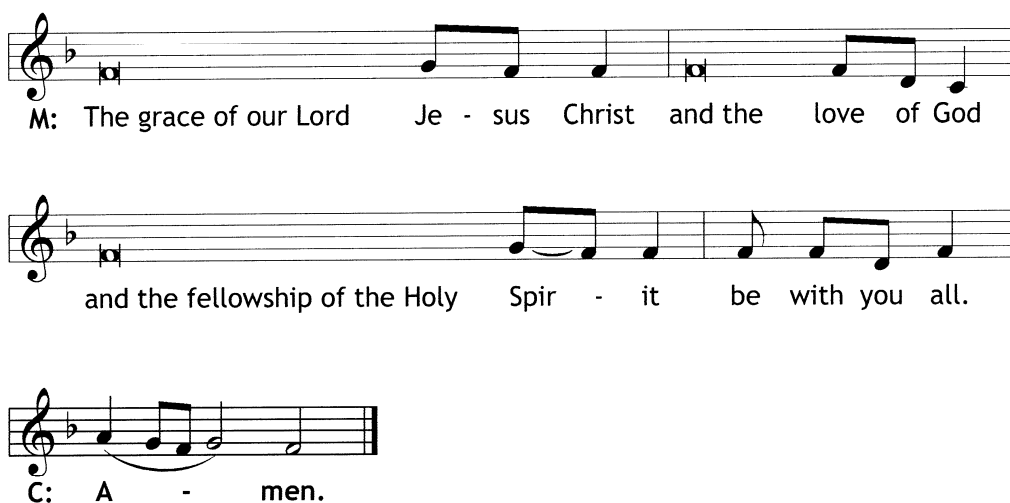
C: Amen.

## SONG OF SIMEON *Nunc Dimittis*



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word.  
For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.  
C: A - men.

## BE SEATED

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CLOSING HYMN

The Old Year Now Has Passed Away  
*Christian Worship #71*

## THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Service ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke  
Communion Assistant..... Pastor Tim Patoka  
Accompanist..... Elaine Goldie  
Vocalists.....Dylan Guenther, Teri Guenther, Beth Kassulke, Jeremy Snively  
Ushers ..... Dylan Guenther, Lucas Guenther, Danny Koehler, Tyler Koehler  
Sound & Recording Tech .....Jeremy Snively  
Altar Prep Team ..... Cindi Breitkreitz, Terry Kosanke, Sally Littau

## We wish you God's Blessings in 2017!

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### REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At Grace-Benson 451 W. Duane St		At Grace-Tucson 830 N. First Avenue	
7:30 AM	Worship Service	7:45 AM	Worship Service
		10:00 AM	Worship Service
At Grace-Sahuarita 17675 S. La Cañada Dr		At Grace-Vail Worshiping at Esmond Station School 9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way	
7:45 AM	Worship Service	10:00 AM	Worship Service
10:00 AM	Worship Service		

### Ornaments Ready for Pick-Up

If your child made a glass ornament at Christmas For Kids, it is available for pick-up in the Fellowship Hall.



Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)