

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +

387 JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C and the day is almost over.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C and illumine Your Church.

COLLECT

Thanksgiving for Light

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

C may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

P for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending.

- C** We commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.
- P** In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit
- C** that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- P** who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Revelation 21:1-4

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:35-40

²⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

LSB 861 CHRIST BE MY LEADER

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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New Year's Message

C **Lord, we confess that we worry about the future and how things will turn out in our lives.**

P The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

C Lord, we confess we worry about the future.

P The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

C Lord, we confess we forget to live our lives as if we are going to live forever.

P The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

C Lord, we want to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness.

P The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

C Lord, We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We believe He died for our sins, and on the third day He rose again from the dead.

P The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

C Lord, We believe that we will live forever, and that whatever happens on earth is only temporary.

P The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

C Lord, I want my faith to change the way I live my life.

P The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

**☐ Lord, By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I live for you
and what you want from me.**

☐ The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses
his people with **peace**. (Psalm 29:11)

LSB 427 IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

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OUR PRAYERS

HOLY COMMUNION

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

G **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P 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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which

is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LW # 550 LAMB OF GOD

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

**ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

Text: Twila Paris, 1958

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If further hymn is needed

HWC 210 Jesus Paid It All *sts. 1, 2, 4 & Refrain*

FINAL PRAYER OF 2025

ALL: 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.

BENEDICTION

P Thanking God for His faithfulness in the year now past, let us enter into the New Year confident of His blessing: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

LSB 809 GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. **Refrain**

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**
- ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!**
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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