

New Year's Eve

O God, our help
in ages past,
our hope
for years
to come



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 31, 2015

PRESERVICE MUSIC

**Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year with
Across the Sky the Shades of Night** *by Alfred Fedak*

WELCOME

HYMN

The Old Year Now Has Passed Away
Christian Worship #71

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: As we enter God’s house for the final time in 2015 and think back upon the year now past, we confess our sins.

ALL: **Dear God, we have not honored you above all things. We have pursued our own interests instead. We have allowed the world and our sinful nature to identify the prizes of life. We have cherished the very things you hate; we have avoided what you love. Cleanse us, heal us, and renew us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

M: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus traded his obedience for your disobedience. For all your sins of the past year, God doesn't give you what you deserve—justice; instead you get what you do not deserve—mercy! His death means your life; your sins are forgiven! By his death and resurrection, the Lord has forgiven your past and secured your future with him.

C: **Amen!**

HYMN OF CONFIDENCE AND PRAISE *(Christian Worship #304 st. 6-7)*



6. Oh, how blest it is to know, Were as scar - let my trans - gres - sion,
7. Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive. E - ven I have been for - giv - en.



It shall be as white as snow By your blood and bit - ter pas - sion,
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an o - pen hea - ven.



For these words I do be - lieve — Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
Dy - ing, still to him I cleave — Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

Please be seated

Psalm 90 A prayer of Moses the man of God.

- M: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,
C: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- M: You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."
C: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
- M: You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—
C: though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.
- M: We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.
C: You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- M: All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.
The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength;
C: yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- M: Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
C: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
- M: Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.
C: Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- M: Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.
C: May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.
- M: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;
C: establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

HYMN

To God the Anthem Raising
Christian Worship #73

SERMON

JOSHUA 3:1-6
FOLLOW THE LORD INTO NEW TERRITORY

Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. After three days the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it."

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you." Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them.

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!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

In Thee is Gladness Tune by Giovanni G. Gastoldi 2

REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS CALLED HOME TO HEAVEN

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

M: We celebrate our family members who have escaped the sorrows of this world and now,
because Jesus is their Savior, enjoy the eternal pleasures of heaven:

Verne A. Fredrick

January 11, 2015

M: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

C: And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. *Job 19:25-26*

Navonne Baxter

March 29, 2015

M: I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life and
will not be condemned;

C: He has crossed over from death to life. *John 5:24*

Ruth Taras

March 29, 2015

M: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

C: I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise. *Luke 23:42-43*

Gene Waldkoetter

April 13, 2015

M: For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to
the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

C: So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. *Romans 14:7-8*

Mary Lou Pierce

July 14, 2015

M: Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the
rest of men, who have no hope.

**C: We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus
those who have fallen asleep in him.** *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*

Ellie Dongoske

November 15, 2015

M: My flesh and my heart may fail,

C: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. *Psalms 73:26*

Bill Rauh

December 16, 2015

M: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

C: Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness. *2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Please stand



1 How blest are they who trust in Christ When we
 2 In rip - ened age, their har - vest reaped, Or gone
 3 In Christ, who tast - ed death for us, We rise



and those we love must part. We yield them up, for
 from us in youth or prime, In Christ they have e -
 a - bove our nat - ural grief And wit - ness to a



go we must, But do not lose them from our heart.
 ter - nal life, Re - leased from all the bonds of time.
 strick - en world The strength and splen - dor of be - lief.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER

M: It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of 2015, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

M: Once again, you have clothed your creation with beauty; you have fed even the birds and have shown us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: You know what we need and you have given us all good things.

M: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: We thank you for the way you have blessed us with all this and more during the past year.

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation and equip us for service.

C: As we think about these blessings tonight, we realize we have taken them for granted at times during this past year. Forgive us for our apathy and increase our desire and appreciation for your gifts of grace.

Special prayers and intercessions

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and eternal God, it is surely you who has saved us. We will trust in you and not be afraid! As you led your people through difficult times in the past, you have also led us. Most importantly, you have led us from the bondage of sin and death into a new life with you. Continue to lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory now and be prepared to sing your praises forever in heaven.

C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Please be seated

HYMN

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Christian Worship #309

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

Please stand

PRAYER & BENEDICTION

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.

Rev. 22:21

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Christian Worship #441

POSTLUDE

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night *by Charles F. Gounod*

Thank you for joining us for worship this New Year's Eve. If you are a guest with us tonight and do not have a church home, we would consider it a special privilege to share God's Word with you on a regular basis. Please take a guest packet from the table near the exit to learn more about Grace and the ministries God has allowed us to undertake.

Those Assisting in Worship this Evening

Worship Leader Pastor Ron Koehler
 Communion Assistant Pastor Nathan Kassulke
 Accompanist Elaine Goldie
 Bell Ringer Danny Koehler
 Ushers Dylan Guenther, Danny & Tyler Koehler, Taylor Parra
 Greeters Jeff & Stephanie Weinstein

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We wish you God's Blessings in 2016!

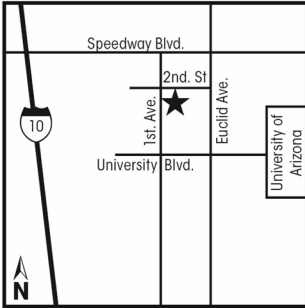

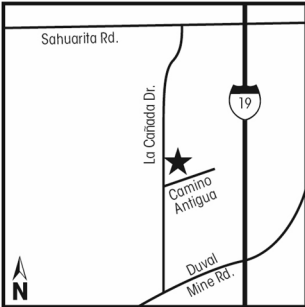
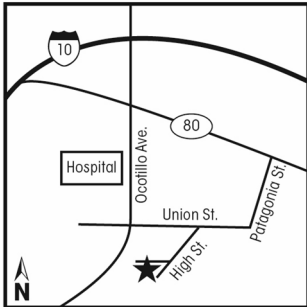
Grace-Tucson

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Grace Locations & Worship Times

<p>Grace Lutheran Church - Tucson 830 N. First Ave. • Tucson, AZ 85719</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Worships Sunday @ 7:45AM & 10:00AM</p>	<p>Grace Lutheran Church - Vail 9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way • Tucson, AZ 85747</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Worships Sunday @ 10:00AM</p>
<p>Grace Lutheran Church - Sahuarita 17675 S. La Cañada Dr. • Sahuarita, AZ 85629</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Worships Sunday @ 9:45AM</p>	<p>Grace Lutheran Church - Benson 451 W. Duane St. • Benson, AZ 85602</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Worships Sunday @ 7:30AM</p>



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