

# New Year's Eve

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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 31, 2017

## WELCOME

## HYMN

Across the Sky the Shades of Night  
Christian Worship #69 st. 1-3

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

Minister: We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: Beloved in the Lord: as we approach the end of this year let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness as King David did in Psalm 51.
- C: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.** *Psalm 51:1-6*

## HYMN OF CONFESSION (*Christian Worship Supplement #738 st. 1-2*)



1. In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I cry to you, my  
2. I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My heart's di - verse af -

Sav - ior! My guilt is more than I can bear. I have not earned your  
fec - tions. Why do I love the things I loathe; I'm torn in two di -

fav - or. You know me as I real - ly am: How  
rec - tions: Now prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O

much is truth, how much is sham; Why should you heed my plead - ing?  
God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who else but you can help me?

## ABSOLUTION

- M: Our merciful Lord has not abandoned us to wallow in our sins. For Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant. I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN OF CONFIDENCE (*Christian Worship Supplement #738 st. 3-4*)



3. I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex - pec - ting re - tri -  
4. For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant me some time to  
bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so -  
ren - der A gift to glo - ri - fy your name, Love to re - flect your  
lu - tion: With you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You  
splen - dor: This world must know what I have learned, That  
speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And I am sure you love me!  
you be - stow what none has earned: The joy of full for - give - ness!

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

- M:** Lord of all power and mercy, we give you thanks for giving us your peace in the closing hours of this year. Grant us this same lasting peace in the coming year and bless us as King David asked of you long ago.
- C:** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. *Psalms 51:7-12*
- M:** Eternal 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.
- C:** Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**1 Peter 1:22-25**

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, 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

people 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 endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**Psalm 119:105**

M: Alleluia. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 13:6-9**

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing 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.’”

**PSALM 90**

*Refrain*

In ev-'ry age, O Lord, you have been our ref - uge.

*Psalm tone*

Lord, you have been our dwelling place\*  
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,\*  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day  
that has just gone by,\*  
or like a watch in the night.

**Refrain**

You have set our iniquities before you,\*  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

You turn mortals back to dust.\*  
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—  
or eighty, if we have the strength;\*  
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright,\*  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**Refrain**

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,\*  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

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*

SERMON

Psalm 90:1-12  
God, Your Eternal Refuge

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals." A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning: In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. We are

consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due. Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

*Please stand*

NICENE CREED

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## 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.

## 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:

**Russ Weir**  
January 24, 2017

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*

**Butch Wightman**  
April 6, 2017

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*

**Dorothea Rohlck**  
April 12, 2017

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*

**Merlin Nielsen**  
November 6, 2017

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*

## HYMN

**Across the Sky the Shades of Night**  
*Christian Worship #69 st. 4-5*

*Please stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: In these last hours of the year we lift up our voices, reflecting on the praises and petitions our Lord Jesus gave us:

C: **Our Father in heaven.**

M: Eternal God, our Creator, in your mercy you have restored us as your forgiven children. Trusting in Jesus' sacrifice and victory in our place, we come before you tonight.

C: **Hallowed by Your name.**

M: We revere your supreme majesty as Savior of the world and Author of time. Help us always to glorify your holy name in all we think, say, and do. Encourage us to tell all people of your love, as you have revealed in your holy Word.

C: **Your Kingdom come.**

M: Uphold your claim on our hearts; reign in our lives, and employ us for sowing the Seed of your saving Word in more and more hearts in the year ahead.

C: **Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

M: Overcome the influence of Satan on us in this fallen world, and make us earnest to conform our desires and our actions to your plan for our future with you.

C: **Give us today our daily bread.**

M: Sustainer of life, you have provided for our bodily necessities in the year past. Fill us with appreciation and trust. Year by year keep us alert for meeting the needs of others.

C: **Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

M: Continue to show us your pardon for Jesus' sake, and keep us ready to do good even to those who do wrong to us. While there still is time in this passing life, help us point them to your saving mercy.

C: **Lead us not into temptation,**

M: Defeat the enemy who wants to strangle our faith in disregard for your Word. Protect us from the temptations of this sinful world, and deliver us from the hold of unrepented sin.

C: **Deliver us from evil.**

M: Be with us through every trouble, so that when we depart this life we will still be trusting and walking with our living Savior.

C: **The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

M: We look to you as Lord of time, ruler of your universe, Head of your Church, and we join with angels to adore you from whom all blessings flow.

C: **We are relying on Jesus whose perfect obedience and atoning death have made us acceptable in your sight. His resurrection assures His promises, and we look into the future eagerly awaiting His return. Now then, as your children we pray with confidence. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*

*Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:*

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high -  
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - men. A - - - men.

*Please be seated*

### DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod congregations (WELS) are invited to receive the Lord's Supper with us.*

*If you are not a WELS member but have an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please speak with one of our pastors after church today or at another time. We are aware that there are a number of other teachings about Holy Communion, and we want it to be a blessing for you, so we would look forward to sharing with you what God says about this Sacrament.*

**HYMN OF THANKSGIVING (sung after distribution)**

**O God, Our Help In Ages Past**  
*Christian Worship #441 st. 1-3*

*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.

**BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**  
*Christian Worship #441 st. 4-6*

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 Timothy Patoka  
Communion Assistant ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke  
Accompanist ..... Elaine Goldie

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***We wish you God’s Blessings in 2018!***

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Grace is one congregation  
at FOUR places!

Enjoy worship, Bible study and activities  
at Grace locations in  
Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson and Vail.

**This Week at Grace • Dec 31 - Jan 7**

**TUCSON**

**Today**

Worship Services ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
 Coffee Fellowship following both services .....  
 Children's Sunday School ..... 8:45a  
 Lifeliners Bible Study: *The Best Christmas Ever* ..... 9:00a  
 Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):  
 • *Church-Mission-Ministry* ..... 9:00a  
**New Year's Eve Worship** ..... 7:00p

**Wednesday**

NO Midweek Bible Studies.....

**Thursday**

NO Women's Bible Study.....

**Sunday**

Worship Services with Communion ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
 Coffee Fellowship following both services .....  
 Children's Sunday School ..... 8:45a  
NO Youth Confirmation Class .....  
NO Lifeliners .....  
 Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):  
 • *My Son, My Savior* Movie ..... 9:00a  
NO WELS TCM.....

**SAHUARITA**

**Today**

Worship Service ..... 10:00a  
 Coffee Fellowship following worship .....  
**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** ..... 7:00p

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: *The Lord's Prayer* ..... 10:00a

**Sunday**

Children's Sunday School ..... 9:00a  
 Adult Bible Study: *Means of Grace* ..... 9:00a  
 Worship Services with Communion ..... 7:45 & 10:00a  
 Coffee Fellowship following worship .....

**VAIL**

**Today**

Children's Sunday School ..... 9:00a  
 Adult Bible Study: *Jesus in the Old Testament* ..... 9:00a  
 Worship Service ..... 10:00a  
 Coffee Fellowship following worship .....  
**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** ..... 7:00p

**Wednesday**

NO Bible Study at the Ministry Center .....

**Sunday**

Children's Sunday School ..... 9:00a  
 Youth Confirmation Class ..... 9:00a  
 Adult Bible Study: *Jesus in the Old Testament* ..... 9:00a  
 Worship Service with Communion ..... 10:00a  
 Coffee Fellowship following worship .....

**BENSON**

**Today**

Worship Service ..... 7:30a  
**New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson** ..... 7:00p

**Thursday**

Bible Study: *Witnessing to Mormons* ..... 6:30p

**Sunday**

Worship Service with Communion ..... 7:30a

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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)