+ First Sunday after Christmas +

December, 31 Year of our Lord 2023 I DS3

Pastor Roberts is away today. The Service will be led by our Elders. Thank you for supporting their leadership in the service today.

A New Year's Eve hymn to contemplate silently before the service today:

Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting. We deck Your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting; And as the year's last hours go by, We raise to You our earnest cry, Once more Your love entreating.

Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer addressing, Recounting all Your mercies now, And all our sins confessing; Beseeching You this coming year. To keep us in Your faith and fear And crown us with Your blessing.



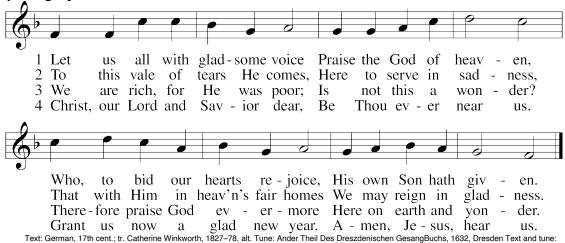
We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of Your mercies: Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r Our grateful song rehearses; For You have been our strength and stay In many_a dark and dreary day Of sorrow and reverses

We now remember, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your caring Who brightly shine in endless day, Past death and all despairing. At our life's end, Lord, as Your own, Bring us with them around Your throne, The joys of heaven sharing.

Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us, And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us Until at last our ransomed life. Is safe from peril, toil, and strife When heav'n itself shall hide us.

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Opening Hymn for a Glad New Year: 390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice



+ Confession and Absolution +

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- ealso P In the name of the Father and of the ightharpoons S Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

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Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal

punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Declaration of Grace *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

- Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit *

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the I nations,* and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation I of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done I marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- I tion for him.

The LORD has made known his sal- I vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the I nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of I Israel.* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation I of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, I all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing I praises!

Glory be to the Father and I to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. I Amen.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the I nations,* and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation I of our God.

Kyrie Mark 10:47 Lord, have Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. mer - cy up -Lord, on have mer - cy us. up - on us. Hymn: 506 Glory Be to God the Father 1 Glo-ry God Fa - ther, Glo be to the be to ry 2 Glo-ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each 3 Glo-ry King of Glo the to the an - gels, ry to Thus 4 Glo-ry, bless - ing, praise e ter - nal! the choir of God the Son, Spir - it: Glo - ry be to God the Glo - ry spot and stain; Him who be bought us, to Church's King, Glo - ry to the King of na - tions; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do min - ion! an - gels sings; Great Je vah, Three One! ho in Glo - ry, with Made us kings Him to reign! Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Heav'n and earth, your prais bring! es Thus its praise tion brings. Glo - ry, cre a 0 glo - ry While e - ter - nal run! a ges glo - ry To the Lamb that was slain! once glo - ry To the King of glo sing! ry King Glo the of kings! glo - ry, ry to Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89 Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865-1919 Text and tune: Public domain

Collect of the Day

Let us pray: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,

so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory,

and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6: Psalm 98:1a

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

Luke 2:30, 32

Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

Triple Alleluia



Holy Gospel Luke 2:22–40

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



ό λόγος

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to

Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male

who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.



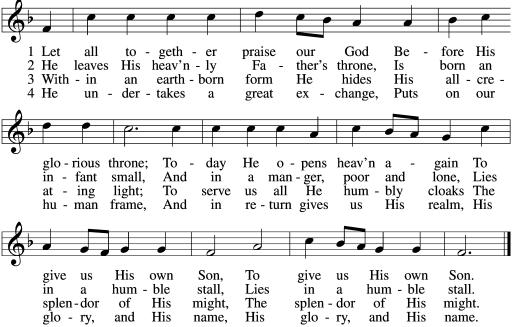


Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.





- 5 He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery! How strong the tender Christ Child's love! No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.
- 6 He is the key and He the door To blessèd paradise; The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise. (hymn continues on next page)

∆ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed, And Jesus, we adore And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

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+ Sermon +

A letter from Pastor Roberts on Luke 2:22-40

Read by an Elder Mark Ratliff at 9:00 a.m., Elder Ben DeHaven at 11:00 a.m.





Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Prayer of the Church

World: Praying for a quick end to the war between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas**. For an end of the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**. All areas and peoples around the world affected by fires, flood, earthquakes, and the like. Residents and businesses in northern **Nashville** and **Clarksville**, Tennessee recovering from tornado damage.



Church: For **missionaries**, **teachers**, and **evangelists**. For **safety and protection** for all who will are building a new Sanctuary, narthex, and parking lots for Praise Lutheran Church. For **safety for our friends in Kenya** (Pastor Jasper and family).

Vocation: For foster children in our community. For veterans and our military (including Carter Felt and Tyler Smith and William Smolter). For those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters. For parents with children and those expecting. For teachers in our community schools. For seminary students at CTSFW: Aaron Wade, Will Bales, and Sam Bohnet.

Loss and Mourning: Family of **Ed Scarano** (former member of Praise, wife: JoAnn). Family of For **Delora Roth** who passed to be with Christ on 11/13. Family of **Greg Nunnink** (98 yrs old, father of Tim Nunnink) who passed on 10/25, Family of **Joan Hoffman** (90 yrs old, faithful friend of Steve & Janice Kaiser) who passed away in Indiana. Family of **Jeanette** (Deb Wales's sister-in-law) who passed away on 10/7. Family of **Jeanne Lindenfelser** (78 yrs old, passed away 10/3). Family of the **Brekke family's Papa Gary**. Family of **Carylon Dickie** (91 yrs old, passed away 9/24). Family of **Maggie McCarty** (two-year old daughter of Pastor Nathan McCarty from camp) who

passed away. Family of **Daidan Lance** (friend of Adam Uebelacker) who died from a motorcycle accident. Family of **Dwight** (Myrna's brother in law) who passed away, especially for Kay (Myrna's sister). Family of **Albert Caspers** (Sally Collver's father in MI) 97 years old who passed away.

Health: For Brad (Phil & Carol Barnett's son) lung blood clots treatment. For Michael Brown (Joan Large's nephew) peace knowing cancer has spread. For Billye Raye Smith to build back immunity after multiple myeloma treatments. Myrna Frazier cancer treatment and health. For Mary Ellen Brown (heart health). For Faith (Jerry and Jennifer Kropp's daughter) health. For **Bill Miller** recovery from ruptured appendix surgery. For Tom Williams procedure in January for a spot on the lung. For Rick Gift (recovering from shoulder surgery). Aunt Janeen healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). For Frank Davis (Leah Mohr's father) health. For **Pete Gay** (Catherine Boute's brother-in-law) terminal cancer. For Marty Smith (Tyler [and Megan] Smith's father) rapidly advancing cancer treatment. For Victor Sebahar (friend of Fred Hansen), cancer in brain, lungs, and bone. For Pastor Phil Young (gall bladder removal) and his wife Amy (cancer treatments). For Jeff **Ratliff** (Mark's younger brother in Florida) cancer, kidney removal, and cancer in the back. For **Bob Goodrich** adjusting to new pacemaker. For **Steve Clemmer** hip replacement recovery. Alan Tokar shoulder surgery recovery. Charleston Snyder's grandmother Nancy (Sarah Thaemert's mother) in Knoxville, health. For Lyndsie (Levi & Suzanne's neighbor) cancer treatments. Ronnie Riggs (friend of Paul Ruble) declining health. David (friend of Jerald Johnston's brother) congestive heart failure. Lawrence McMichael thanksgiving for prognosis from tests and good treatment plan to come. Bill Solomon (Amy Mohr's brother) eve condition. For Marge (Ted Wilson's former wife) valve replacement. **Gary Kubin** experiencing debilitating back and leg pain. Sharon Yoder recovering from mitral valve prosthesis trial (thanksgiving!). Carol Ehrens diagnosed with Thyroid cancer (slow growing). Bronson Butcher (Mary Schopmann's great-grandson) thanksgiving for successful robotic kidney tract stent and soon follow-up procedure. Deb Wales's father (health). Anna Strege broke arm in three places. Landen (family of Brian and Anna Strege) treating a rare virus. Rick & Lisa Gift's family, Terry & Ann Gift (both with cancer), Terry also fell and fractured his hip. Jules Felt recovery of health. Harvey Booher (Lori Smith's brother) recovering from heart attack and 3 stents. Steve (Lainey from Bible Study's husband) hip surgery recovery. Ed McGillick persistent dizziness caused by abnormal blood pressure fluctuations. Janice Kaiser health. Lee Schuck at home, for her health and mobility. Gary Moehling recovery of balance and stability. Adam Uebelacker knee injury rehab. Debbie Johnston kidney health. Chuck Pettyjohn recovering from open heart surgery. Mary (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) Legionnaires' disease treatment. Bob McDermott dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **Judy Kalkitis** health and Judy's son in law,

Larry (health). Pastor Neil Vanderbush at Immanuel, Memphis, recurrent multiple myeloma treatment. Kay (Myrna's sister) for health. Pastor Ed Maanum of First Lutheran Knoxville, kidney function. For June McDonnell (lung health). Jennifer Morsch (Joel & Barbara's daughter) health. Rachel Ernst's mother: cancer treatments. For Alan Stremsterfer's mother health issues. For Lisa Stremsterfer's father health and stability. Sheila Schnepf (friend of Tom & Lois Schering) back pain. Nancy (Jim Vesper's mother) health. Aurora Stevens back treatments. For Barbara Moyers health. For Kathy Bigger (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Al Reuer health. Ken Payne's health (friends of a friend of Jim Vesper). Tim Smith (heart and back health). Steve Kaiser's mother Louise (age 92) in Indiana. Andrew Hebar's Aunt Kara (struggling from cancer treatments). Clients and friends of Jim Vesper: Myron Farmer (needing liver transplant), Debbie Buckner (peace and restoration), Steve Phipps (recovery from fall that broke both legs).

Birthdays: Rose B 12/30, Audrey F 1/4, Theresa L 1/4, Lawrence M 1/10, Randy Groen 1/13, Camden S 1/13

Anniversaries: William & Kimberly S 12/30, David & Kenna C 1/4

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Benedicamus Psalm 103:1

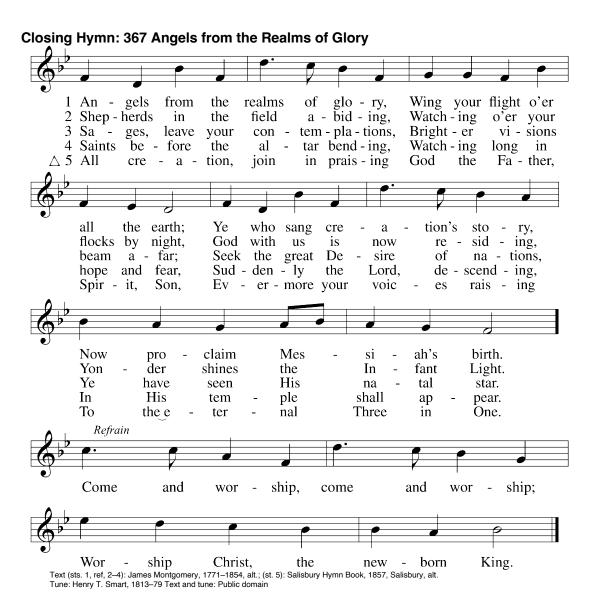
A Bless we the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the

→ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

Amen.



Acknowledgments

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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Address: 1850 Big Springs Rd. Maryville, TN 37801 Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: **praiselutheran.com**

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue "Give" button) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, tina@praiselutheran.com

Pastor: Rev. Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 229-6024 (Day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, shelli@praiselutheran.com, cell: (909) 226-3179 Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Capital Campaign Info: Ed Hannah; Joel Morsch

Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Moved? Changed your email address? Changed cell phone or home phone? Please let the church office know. Two Large Print Hymnals are available in the back of church. Please ask those who are helping usher, play music, or manage the livestream equipment in the back of church.



Youth and Families

Encourage your kids of all ages to attend **Sunday morning Bible study**. Younger children meet in the Sunday School Classroom across from the mailboxes while students from 6th grade through 12th grade (or equivalent) will meet in the Social Hall.

Middle and High School Youth Groups on Wednesdays

Middle School 6 p.m. Come ready to play Seated Volleyball and learn about God's word together in devotion and prayer. **Highschool 7 p.m.** Rummy and Bible Study!

Youth Catechesis Schedule

with Pastor Roberts after church, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Sun, Jan 14	Apostles' Creed
Sun, Jan 28	Apostles' Creed
Sun, Feb 11	Apostles' Creed

Announcements

Thank you to everyone for the gifts and cards and food this Christmas! We are so blessed to rejoice with you in our Savior's birth and what it means for all the earth. Happy New Year and blessings until next week when we celebrate the Epiphany of Christ Jesus (a.k.a. the Gentile Christmas)!

Pastor Roberts and Family

Thank you to our Elders today for leading the services and for leading Bible Study.

Pastor Roberts will be **out-of-town** Dec 26 through Jan 3. Please contact Praise's head Elder for pastoral emergencies, Elder Chuck Pettyjohn: (865) 223-3471

Adopt a College Student or Young Military servant (members of Praise): please see Linda McMichael or Pastor Roberts about how you can help show care and love all year round and specifically before this Thanksgiving. *Needed: 2 more families to adopt.* Thank you to all of you who have already.

Youth Group Middle School 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., Highschool 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. No Choir this Wednesday, resumes Jan 10.

Men's Bible Study on break until Jan 10.

Ladies Bible Study on break until Jan 11.

Worship chairs: If you're asking, "What can I help fund?" we are in the process of ordering 116 new chairs in the same fabric and similar frame to complete the new Sanctuary. Cost is approx. \$100 per chair with shipping. Please specify: Worship Chairs with your gift. Status: \$3,300 (33 chairs) have been given to date.

Lutheran Witness 2024 Subscription Sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please submit check or gift of \$15 and indicate *Lutheran Witness*.



Progress on our build

Visit **praiselutheran.com/build** to see a video on the progress! Current projects: Electrical in Sanctuary ceiling, drywall, steeple installation.

Building Fund Update	2023 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$330,320	\$956,115
Pledged	\$277,877	\$1,065,270
Remaining	-\$52,955	\$109,223

Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 36% funded).