



# A Year with the Lord

LEADER'S GUIDE

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The Turning of the Year

A  
Year  
with the  
Lord

Leader's Guide

# The Turning of the Year

## A Year with the Lord

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# The Turning of the Year

## <sup>A</sup> Year with the Lord

### Notes and Ordering Information

*All that happens in a year can go by in a blur or be very disjointed. But this service for New Year's Eve or Christ the King connects the seasons of the calendar year and events of the Church Year into a single story. A series of reflections, hymns and readings helps parishioners get a stronger sense of the whole story of God's love and care for them through Christ over the course of the past year.*

*Hymns include "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," "O Holy Spirit, Enter In," "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," "As With Gladness Men of Old," "Christ, the Life of All The Living," "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" and "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing."*

*Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code LL5A*

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# The Turning of the Year

## A Year with the Lord

### Christ the King Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

#### Newsletter Notice

*We invite you to join us for a unique service for Christ the King Sunday. In this service, entitled “A Year with the Lord,” we will recapture all the parts of the Church Year, which can so often go by in a blur or be very disjointed. This service connects the seasons and events of the Church Year into a single story about the life of the Lord and our life with him. A series of reflections, hymns and readings will help you get a stronger sense of the whole story of God’s love and care for you through Christ.*

#### Bulletin Notice

*Welcome to this unique service for Christ the King Sunday. In this service, entitled “A Year with the Lord,” we will recapture all the parts of the Church Year, which can so often go by in a blur or be very disjointed. This service connects the seasons and events of the Church Year into a single story about the life of the Lord and our life with him. Let the series of reflections, hymns and readings in this service help you get a stronger sense of the whole story of God’s love and care for you through Christ.*

# The Turning of the Year

## A Year with the Lord

New Year's Eve/Day  
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

### Newsletter Notice

*We invite you to join us for a unique service for New Year's Eve. In this service, entitled "A Year with the Lord," we will review our journey of faith over the past year, which can so often go by in a blur or be very disjointed. This service connects the seasons of the calendar year and events of the Church Year into a single story about the life of the Lord and our life with him. A series of reflections, hymns and readings will help you get a stronger sense of the whole story of God's love and care for you in Christ throughout the year.*

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*Welcome to this unique service for New Year's Eve. In this service, entitled "A Year with the Lord," we will review our journey of faith over the past year, which can so often go by in a blur or be very disjointed. This service connects the seasons of the calendar year and events of the Church Year into a single story about the life of the Lord and our life with him. Let this series of reflections, hymns and readings help you get a stronger sense of the whole story of God's love and care for you in Christ throughout the year.*

# The Turning of the Year

## A Year with the Lord

### Complete Script For Worship Leaders

*(NOTE: In addition to the Scripture readings, reflections and hymns, you might also provide a visual reminder for the congregation by having teams of people hold or display the paraments for the season in the chancel, switching these as each season of the Church year is discussed.)*

- The **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor or silently by the congregation before the start of the service:

*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10*

- The **Invocation and Introduction** are delivered by the pastor:

☞ We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I can't believe a year has gone by already. It seems like just yesterday that we were together here. Holy days, now called holidays. Celebrations of birth and anniversaries. Yearly remembrances of days long gone and loved ones no longer here with us to share the moment. Years come and years go, some faster than others and getting faster all the time. And when that calendar reaches its end, what comes? Another calendar. Another year. Another birthday. Another holy day. That happens in your house, and it happens here, in this, our holy house. And even though years go by too fast, they don't usually happen as fast as they will today. Today will be different. Seeing your life flashing before your eyes is something that changes



you and gives you a broader perspective. That's what this worship service will do. Today we watch the past and future of our life with the Lord flash before our eyes, and it's meant to change us, to help us cherish the moments as they come and cherish the company in which we stand. Today the Church Year will fly by. This is my hope—that when the Church Year unfolds in real time throughout the coming year—you and I will stop and let each moment wash over us and remind us that these moments are sacred because our year, our Church Year, is filled with holy days, made holy by the birthday, milestones and celebrations of our most holy Savior, Jesus. Stop, listen, reflect, and let his life story overtake your life story.

You will notice that as the Church year goes by, that each season has a focus and a style or mood. Seasons have colors and songs that mean something. Watch as these things change. Listen as God's Word for us shapes each moment and defines your life with the Lord.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Anne CM:

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home..

- **Paraments for the Pentecost Season** may be held up or changed by members of the altar guild or other volunteers in the chancel area of the church at this time, if desired.
- The **Pentecost Reading** (from Acts 2:14, 22-41) is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before

me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- **The Reflection: The Season of Pentecost** is delivered by the pastor:

*NOTE: If you are giving this service on Christ the King Sunday, begin with the following:*

- Ⓟ Our Church Year has come to an end in these last days of the season of Pentecost. Before the new Church Year begins with the season of Advent, we will review all of the seasons of the Church Year, remembering the life of Jesus our Lord and the life we have in him through faith in his name.

*NOTE: If you are giving this service on New Year’s Eve, begin with the following:*

As we usher in a new calendar year, we take time to review a year in the life of the Church, remembering the life and ministry of Jesus. Although we will soon celebrate the season of Epiphany, we will begin as we remember the season of Pentecost, the season that celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit, who calls us to new life in and with our Lord.

*The Reflection continues here:*

Pentecost is the last season of the Church Year, yet Pentecost doesn't ever really end. Pentecost began when the Holy Spirit invigorated the followers of Jesus, and from a handful of disciples, the Church as we know it had its beginning. Pentecost is about the guiding of the Spirit and the teaching of Jesus. It is the season where we are reminded most to go and do. Pentecost really and truly only ends when time ends and Jesus returns. Then we will enter the eternal feast and see the table and seats full because of the work that the Spirit has done through us, to the praise and honor of Jesus forever. And please, please, remember that these are not history lessons about events that happened only to someone else, now barely real to us because they exist primarily in stained glass. Today the Holy Spirit is still being poured out on Jesus' disciples, on us, and there's still work to do. The Spirit gives us faith to believe that the work he does through us will matter forever. Our lives matter. God's mission matters. As in every generation, the Spirit is calling us to confess and witness and lose our lives for Jesus. But before you go into those harvest fields, listen to Jesus, be fed by Jesus. He, the Bread of life, is available for you to taste and be satisfied. You will need that, because the mission is hard. It always has been hard. But have no fear, God goes with you, and you aren't alone. You go out to work for the kingdom of God surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, the apostles, prophets, martyrs and all of the faithful of past ages. You work with your brothers and sisters in Christ, in this place and throughout the world. You are in good company, and you have work to do.

- The **Sharing of the Peace** takes place at this time, with parishioners and the pastor exchanging a handshake and/or an embrace with one another while saying, "The Peace of the Lord be with you" or something similar, according to local custom.
- The **Hymn for Pentecost** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Wie Schön Leuchtet* 887 887 4444:

O Holy Spirit, enter in and in our hearts your work begin,  
Your dwelling place now make us; Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
Around and in us brightly shine, to joy and gladness wake us.  
That we, may be truly living, to you giving prayer unceasing,  
And in love be still increasing.

O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your dear Word, in doubt and strife,  
In us be strongly burning that we be faithful unto death  
And live in love and holy faith, from you true wisdom learning.  
Your grace and peace on us shower; by your power Christ confessing,  
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

- **Paraments for the Advent Season** may be held up or changed by members of the altar guild or other volunteers in the chancel area of the church at this time, if desired.

- The **Advent Reading** (from Isaiah 11:1-6) is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

- The **Reflection: The Season of Advent** is delivered by the pastor:

¶ If Pentecost teaches us that sometimes you have to move, Advent teaches us that sometimes you have to wait. In this, the first season of the Church Year, we stand in different company, not only with the fledgling Church of fishermen and tax collectors turned evangelists and apostles. In Advent we stand with God's Old Testament people, with prophets, priests and kings, and we wait for the promise to become reality. We wait for the promised Holy and Anointed One to arrive. The wait seems long sometimes. From the promise in the Garden of Eden to the arrival of the Christ Child, more than five thousand years had gone by. God's people were in Advent forever. They longed for the day when God would arrive and turn this upside down world on its head. They prayed and prayed for his arrival. And as the days grow darker, literally and figuratively, we stand in that good company. A similar prayer is on our lips. We wait for God to arrive. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! As we prepare to celebrate your humble birth, give us the faith to wait for your glorious return. But please return quickly. We long for you.

- The **Hymn for Advent** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jefferson 87 87 D:

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*Needed: a small figure of the Christ Child in a manger from a nativity set*

**P** (*Show the Christ Child figure.*) When do we usually see a decoration like this? (*Let children respond.*) Before Christmas comes, we decorate our homes with a tree and ornaments and candles and gifts. We set this figure of baby Jesus in a manger scene. The four weeks before Christmas are called the season of Advent. That's when we watch and wait for Christmas! We can hardly wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

God's Old Testament people could hardly wait either! They watched and waited. God had promised to send a Savior to them, a Savior who would come to take their sins away. God's people watched and waited, and when the time was right, God's Son, Jesus our Savior, was born in Bethlehem!

During the season of Advent we watch and wait too! We decorate our homes for Christmas and we go to special church services. We are waiting to celebrate Jesus' birth! But during Advent—and all through the year—we are waiting for something else to happen, something very exciting. When Jesus finished his work on earth, after he died on the cross and rose from the dead, he went up to heaven to rule as our King. But he promised that one day he would come back to take us to live with him forever. So we are watching and waiting for Jesus to return. When he returns, he will not come as a little baby, as he did in Bethlehem. (*Show the manger figure.*) When Jesus returns, he will come as our mighty King and Savior. We will live with him forever! Jesus promised, "I am coming soon." We answer him, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Let's repeat those words together: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Let's pray: Jesus, thank you for coming to be our Savior. We love to celebrate your birth at Christmas. Now we are watching and waiting for the day of your return. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

- **Paraments for the Christmas Season** may be held up or changed by members of the altar guild or other volunteers in the chancel area of the church at this time, if desired.



- The **Christmas Reading** (from Matthew 1:18-25) is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- The **Reflection: The Season of Christmas** is delivered by the pastor:

¶ The challenge of Christmas is this—to unimagine all the ones we’ve celebrated and arrive again as if it were the first time at the manger on that most holy night. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem and barely arrived in time, for the fullness of time to arrive. God’s promise is kept. God dwells on earth in the midst of his people in a surprising new way. The One through whom the universe was created and who holds the universe together by the power and strength of command in his voice—well, that One now cries and coos and all at once longs both to be with his Father in heaven and desires the comfort of his mother. Isaiah said it would happen this way, the virgin would give birth to a Son, a Son who would be literally and truly God right here with us, Immanuel. Stand in the good company of shepherds still shocked to hear angels over the sound of their flock, and know that in the stillness of this moment, God has rent the heavens and come down, into our lives. He has shattered the course of history and broken apart all expectations. The holy and spotless Lamb of God, given for the sins of the world, born to die and live for you and me, is newborn on that first Christmas night, and born in us every day. Our salvation has arrived. We gather in stillness to watch as a life begins, the only perfect life ever lived—a life that will be laid down in sacrifice and taken up again in triumph—for our salvation.

- The **Hymn for Christmas** is sung by the congregation to the tune Mendelssohn 77 77 D and refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Tune..... Regent Square 87 87 87

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- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Regent Square 87 87 87:

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us; O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

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