

ASKING GOD'S BLESSING on OUR NEW YEAR – 2008

**A Time to Remember
A Time to Forgive and Forget
A Time to Begin Anew**



PRESENCE of GOD

We pause and remember that our God is a God of Joy and Love. He is the Beginning and the End, the Maker of all, and the Giver of Gifts. He is always and everywhere present with us, holding us close to His heart.

Glory to You, O Triune God, Father, Son, and Spirit most Holy. Amen.

HYMN

At the turning of the year we return to contemplate
seasons, cycles, signs and times, sacred ground to cultivate.
Insight often grows more clear
at the turning of the year.

At the turning of the year
waxing nights announce warmer days that promise Spring
even as the sun migrates.
Hope sleeps in the husk of fear
at the turning of the year.

At the turning of the year we look back and speculate
on the ebb and flow of life, asking what it indicates.
Wisdom speaks and some will hear at the turning of the year.

At the turning of the year we look forward as we wait
for the grace of God in time, never early, never late,
always distant, always here at the turning of the year.

– Michael Hudson

ECCLESIASTES 3: 1 – 8

LEADER: For everything there is a season:

ALL: And a time for every matter under heaven:

LEADER: A time to be born and a time to die.

ALL: A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

LEADER: A time to break down, and a time to build up.

ALL: A time to weep and a time to laugh.

LEADER: A time to keep and a time to throw away.

ALL: A time to be silent and a time to speak.

.LEADER: A time to love and a time to hate.
ALL: A time for war and a time for peace.
LEADER: God has made everything suitable for its time.
ALL: God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.
LEADER: God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.
ALL: Whatever God does endures forever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

LET US PRAY: Eternal Father, You have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives You bless us with Your love. Grant that in this new year we may know Your presence, see Your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever -- the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We ask this as Your people on the journey through life to You. Amen.

REVELATION 21: 1 – 6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be His people and God Himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The One Who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

Then He said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true."

He said to me, "They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

REFLECTION

God grant us this year a wider view,
So we see others' faults through the eyes of You.
Teach us to judge not with hasty tongue,
Neither the adult ... nor the young.

Give us patience and grace to endure
And a stronger faith so we feel secure.
Instead of remembering, help us forget
The irritations that caused us to fret.

Freely forgiving for some offense
And finding each day a rich recompense.
In offering a friendly, helping hand
And trying in all ways to understand;



**That all of us whoever we are ...
Are trying to reach an unreachable star.
For the great and small ... the good and bad,
The young and old ... the sad and glad
Are asking today; Is life worth living?
The answer is only in, loving and giving.
For only Love can make man kind
And Kindness of Heart brings Peace of Mind.
By giving love, we can start this year
To lift the clouds of hate and fear.**

- Helen Steiner Rice

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

The new year, like a new born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind. Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the community of the baptized, that rejoicing in Christ's fulfillment of the Law for all people, we may joyfully witness to the salvation of God, let us pray to the Lord:

For each of us that this New Year will provide the occasions for us to grow in grace, wisdom and love, we pray:

For our family, friends and our parish community, that we commend to God's mercy the year past and receive with thanksgiving the gift of a new year with its opportunities and challenges for serving Him, let us pray to the Lord:

For the nations, that in this New Year God would grant peace, hope, and health to all peoples and places torn apart by war and bloodshed, let us pray to the Lord:

For the imprisoned, the lonely, the forsaken, and all whose hearts cry out for the healing of God upon their lives that the Lord Jesus would heal and restore, comfort and support them according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:

For all peoples that through our prayer and worship, our faith would be strengthened, our hope renewed, and our love for others inflamed, let us pray to the Lord:

For the faithful who have gone before us, remembering especially those of the family of faith who have entered their eternal rest in the year just past, that we may give thanks and praise and ask our Lord to bring us with them to the feast of joy that never ends, let us pray to the Lord:

For our own private intentions, we pray to the Lord:

LET US PRAY

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

NEW YEAR WISH

During this new year of 2008, a year of grace and wonder:

Take time to work--it is the price of success.

Take time to think--it is the source of power

Take time to read--it is the fountain of wisdom

Take time to worship--it is the highway to reverence

Take time to be friendly--it is the road to happiness

Take time to laugh--it helps to lift life's load

Take time for God's Word--it brings Christ near and

It washes the dust of earth from your eyes.

Take time for God--it is life's only truly lasting investment.

- Wayne Dobratz

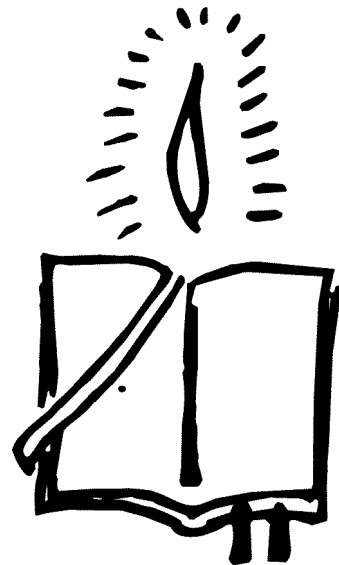
HYMN

**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.**

**O God our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while troubles last,
And our Eternal Home.**



PRAYER

**Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings,
with Your most gracious favor,
and further us with Your continual help,
that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You,
we may glorify Your holy name,
and finally, by Your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our
Lord, Who taught us to pray:**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

**Now to the One Who is able to keep you from falling,
and to present you without blemish
before the presence of His glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Savior,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion and authority,
before all time and now and forevermore. (Jude 24-25)**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)**

Let us bless the Lord.

And give Him thanks!



**Jesus, You are the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End.
Bless the work of our hands, minds and hearts
during this year of gift and grace - 2008.**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us in the new year to live out our Christian life.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!