

A PRAYER for the NEW YEAR

Therefore if any person is in Christ,
that person is a new creature;
the old things passed away;
behold, new things have come.
2 Corinthians 5:17

PRESENCE of GOD

From time immemorial, God has loved us with an everlasting love. He sent His only Son, Jesus the Christ, to live among us and to show us how to live, to love and to serve. We praise the Triune God, Father, Son, and Spirit for the awesome gift of life, redemption, and His love and presence in our everyday lives; therefore do not abandon us, Lord, our God.

The New Year, like a newborn 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.

HYMN: FOR THE NEW YEAR

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

---Kate B. Wilkinson



ECCLESIASTES 3:1-12

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task which God has appointed for men and women to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without our ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.

The Word of the Lord! Response: Thanks be to God!

MATTHEW 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit upon His glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before Him. And He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father.

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, a stranger and you welcomed Me, naked and you clothed Me, ill and you cared for Me, in prison and you visited Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him and say, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? When did we see You ill or in prison, and visit You?'

And the King will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'

Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, a stranger and you gave Me no welcome, naked and you gave Me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for Me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to Your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for Me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord! Response: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

REFLECTION

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.

If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.

His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

---Philippians 4:6-7

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ,
be with us today and always.

Be our Light, our Guide,
and our Comforter.

Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.

May this New Year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,

A time of welcoming Your graces and gifts,

A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,

A time for growing in virtue and goodness.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Be with us today and always.

Amen.



HYMN: AT THE TURNING OF THE YEAR

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 annunciate
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 backward 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



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to be more hopeful and more enlivened in Christ in this new year.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!

Happy New Year!