

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF PRAISE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up to the Lord, It is right to give God thanks and praise at all times.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us test and examine our ways and return to the Lord. Let us sincerely confess our common sins unto Almighty God.

People: Lord, we confess that we have sinned against thee and against one another and we are sorry for our wrongdoing. We have made fun of people whom we view as being different than us. We have mistakenly thought of ourselves as being more religious and more faithful than some other persons. We have maintained habits that are harmful to us and to our families. We have attempted to manipulate persons in devious ways in order to have control over them. We have not heeded numerous urgings of your Holy Spirit to minister with the poor, the lonely and the troubled. For these sins we ask forgiveness from thee, and forgiveness from each other. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: It is written in Holy Scripture: "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and God will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

People: *We believe the promises of God are true. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God for his mercy and his faithfulness. Thanks be to God for Jesus, our Lord and Master, who continues to call us to follow in his ways of redeeming love and self-giving service.*

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/LIFTING THE CUP

THE INVITATION—SHARING THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: In the year of our Lord 2015: Make us to be instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love, where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, unity; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that we may not seek so much to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we will receive...it is in pardoning that we will be pardoned...and it is in dying that we will be born to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A New Year! A New Day! A New Life!

Not only on *New Year's* but all the year through
God gives us a chance to begin life anew,
For each day at dawning we have but to pray
That all the mistakes that we made yesterday
Will be blotted out and forgiven by grace,
For God in His love will completely efface
All that is past and He'll grant a new start
To all who are truly repentant at heart—
And well may man pause in awesome-like wonder
That our Father in heaven who dwells far asunder
Could still remain willing to freely forgive
The shabby, small lives we so selfishly live
And still would be mindful of sin-ridden man
Who constantly goes on defying God's plan—
But this is the gift of God's limitless love
A *gift* that we all are so unworthy of,
But God gave it to us and all we need do
Is to ask God's forgiveness and begin life anew.

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness" ~ I John 1:9*

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Amen.

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