

JANUARY 1, 2026  
NEW YEAR'S EVE,  
NEW YEAR'S DAY

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

*Christ makes all things new.*

## NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your New Year's observances.

**Tuesday**      **Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**   **For everything there is a season**  
                    **Revelation 21:1-6a**   **New heaven and earth**

**Wednesday**    **Psalm 8**                **Divine majesty and human dignity**  
                    **Matthew 25:31-46**   **The great judgment**

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR NEW YEAR'S

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." **Revelation 21:5 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for New Year's:**

Almighty and merciful God, give us faith to trust in your goodness, and hearts and hands filled with loving deeds, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with a loving and caring heart.

JANUARY 1, 2026

## HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S

*O God, Our Help in  
Ages Past*

## NEW YEAR'S MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Thinking back on the past year, what will you remember the most?
- In what ways has God blessed or shaped you during the past year?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read: Matthew 25:31-46.*

No one likes to be judged. The thought of divine judgment is even more distressing. However, the judgment of God has a cleansing effect. God's judgment means that sin and death pass away. Sin and death are judged and condemned. Hope, faith, and love are what remain. In the parable of the great judgment Jesus points out what is still present: compassion that is committed to loving deeds done for others. People are fed, given something to drink, clothed, cared for during a time of illness, and visited when imprisoned. These are truly loving deeds, not just loving thoughts. What is most amazing is that those who do such things don't realize they have done them to the Son of Man. Loving deeds are motivated by a life filled with love, not fear or the need for personal rewards. As you think about 2026, wonder how the love of God can rule in your heart and shape the work of your hands, feet, and voice.

*Discuss: What loving deeds can you do this coming year to bless others?*

*Pray: Dear God, with this new year, give me a heart of gladness that cares for others in ways that show how you care for us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the New Year's Bible Readings, what resolutions might you make this year to care for the needs of others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



A New Year's tradition in Spain is to eat twelve grapes at midnight to count down the new year. It is thought that this will bring luck each month in the coming year. To put a Christian twist on this tradition, place twelve grapes in a bowl and write a list of twelve ways you or others you know may need God's help in the coming year. At midnight, eat the grapes. Take a moment to read through your list.

*Pray: Lord God, we put the past year behind us with all its blessings and hard times. Help us to look forward to the year to come and to remember that you will take care of us and are with us always. Amen.*