

*What Does the Church Need to Face in the New Year?*



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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a  
Congregation in the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**



### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this worship service! Especially to you who are guests and visitors, WELCOME!

We at St. Paul's Lutheran share a common belief in **Jesus** as **our Savior** from sin and as the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, revealed in the Bible. We want to share God's Word with as many people as possible because we know that Jesus lived, died and rose from death to save us and all people. We're happy to have the opportunity to share the saving truths of the Bible with you!

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Pew Cards:** We kindly request that visitors fill out a pew card so that we have a record of your visit and can invite you to other events here at St. Paul's!

**Little Children:** We love having our little ones in worship with us! If desired, quiet bags and sketch tablets are located near the nursery to the right after you exit the sanctuary. The nursery is there to use if young ones become restless during the service as well.

**Restrooms** are located just off the gathering room.

**Baby changing stations** are in the restrooms down the hall just beyond the kitchen and commons area.

**If you need any help,** our ushers (seated in the back of church) are here to help!

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (pre K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.**

**Communion Preparation:** *Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayer: Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen.*

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## THE COMMON SERVICE

### OPENING HYMN

*Speak, O Lord* | 633

*Please stand.*

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

M: Another year has come and gone. Yet Jesus, our Immanuel, has not left us. He said,

**C: "Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age." (Mt.28:20)**

M: He will return with the clouds and take us to be with him.

**C: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Ps.130:5)**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. (Ps.130:1)**

M: If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? (Ps.130:3)

**C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. (Ps.130:2)**

M: For lovelessness toward you and selfishness among each other.

**C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. (Ps.130:2)**

M: For time squandered and talent wasted.

**C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. (Ps.130:2)**

M: For the death we deserve here and hereafter.

**C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. (Ps.130:2)**

M: Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He has redeemed us from all our sins.

(Ps.130:7-8) By the blood of our crucified Savior, your guilt is removed. By the command of our risen Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

**HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High* | **346 v. 1**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray. Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to consider seriously how short our lives are and how great your goodness is. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

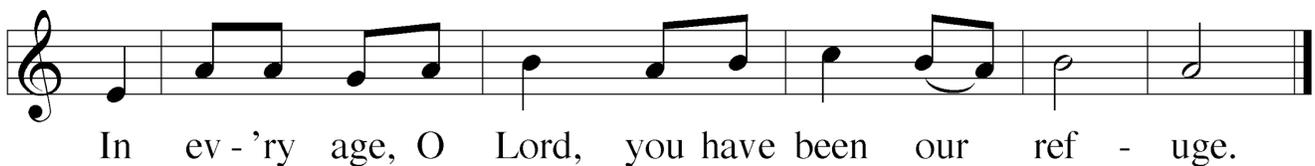
**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

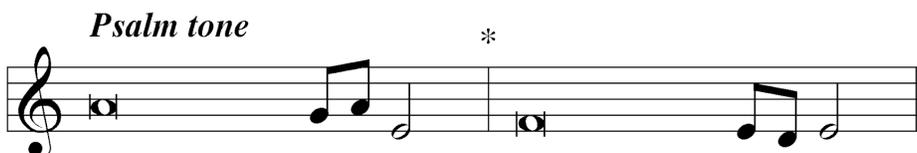
*Psalm 90*

*Rejoice in the LORD, our dwelling place in every generation, and the giver of wisdom for our days here.*



In ev - 'ry age, O Lord, you have been our ref - uge.

*Psalm tone* \*



Lord, you have been our dwelling place\*  
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,\*  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day  
that has just gone by,\*  
or like a watch in the night.

*Refrain*

You have set our iniquities before you,\*  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

You turn mortals back to dust.\*  
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—  
or eighty, if we have the strength;\*  
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright,\*  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

*Refrain*

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,\*  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain*

**FIRST LESSON**

***Hebrews 13:20-21***

*God gives strength for tomorrow in Jesus.*

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he

work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Psalm 119:105*

M: Alleluia! Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Alleluia!

**HYMN**

*O Word of God Incarnate | 642 v. 1*

**1 O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,  
We praise you for the radiance That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.**

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

*Luke 13:6-9*

*We can have joy in our Lord's patience with us for another year and his work on us to bear fruit for him.*

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup>"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*Be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Beautiful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing | 595*

**SERMON**

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

*Let's Go!*

*Heartbeat \* Health*

*Please stand.*

*Our offerings of thanks to the Lord will be brought forward during the following song.*

**SERMON HYMN**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | **820 vv. 1,4,6**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**M:** O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

**C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

**M:** Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

**C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

**M:** We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

**C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

**M:** Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

**C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

**M:** Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

**C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

**M:** Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

**C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

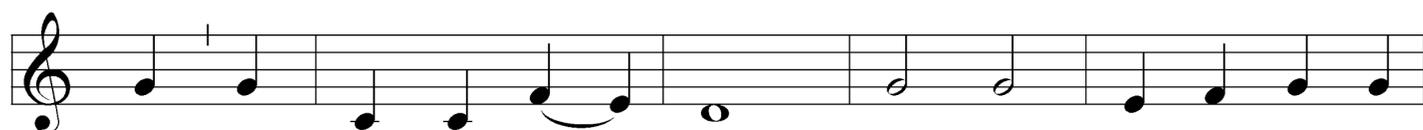
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

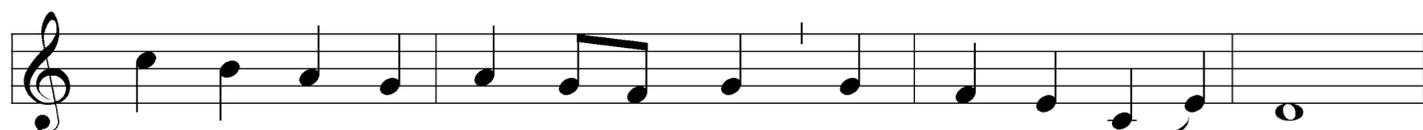
C: Amen.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated.*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:** *St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*From Heaven Above* | 331 vv. 1-2,8,13-15

*Please stand.*

**C:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.

He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Let Us All with Gladsome Voice | 332*

*Be seated.*

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*SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE*

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