



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 31, 2025 – New Year's Eve Service



Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary. We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service. If you are a parent with young children, we want you to know that we love having children worship with us since worship includes them, too. At the same time, we know that children sometimes like to make their presence known in spite of the best efforts to keep them quiet. For your convenience and in consideration of those seated near you, we have a **Family Room** located through the door in the back of the Fellowship Hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service. **Busy bags** are also available near the central sanctuary doors.

Prayer before worship: Dear God of all glory, through eyewitnesses you have revealed to us your Son as the Babe of Bethlehem, as the Savior at the cross, and as the risen and ascended King of heaven. Help us, therefore, to praise him properly in the celebration of his birth, to receive him humbly in his grace, and to look for him to come again in glory! We ask it for Jesus' sake, amen.

Pastor: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Congregation: Amen.

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: to sing praise to your name, O Most High,

P: to herald your love in the morning,

C: your truth at the close of day.

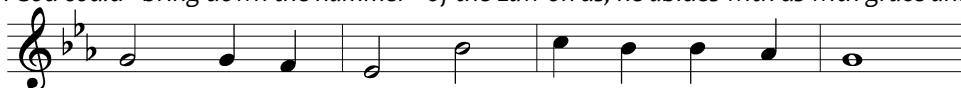
P: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

C: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Abide with Me

CW 783 sts. 1-4

Though God could "bring down the hammer" of the Law on us, he abides with us with grace and peace.



1 A - bid with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst smile,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
but kind and good, with heal - ing in thy wings,
and though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean - while,



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea;
thou hast not left me oft as I left thee;



help of the help - less, O a - bid with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.
come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bid with me.
on to the close, O Lord, a - bid with me.

Confession

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Brief time for silent confession.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

C: we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

Absolution

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.

C: Amen.

Abide with Me

CW 783 sts. 5-7

Throughout our life, Christ's cross casts out fears and doubts by opening heaven's bright, shining door.



5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
7 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!
I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

Knowing that there is a time for everything allows us both to review and preview all the years our life.

'For everything there is an appointed time.

There is an appropriate time for every activity under heaven:

²a time to give birth and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot plants,
³a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones,
a time to embrace and a time not to embrace,
⁶a time to search and a time to stop searching,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷a time to rip and a time to sew,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

P: The Word of the Lord.

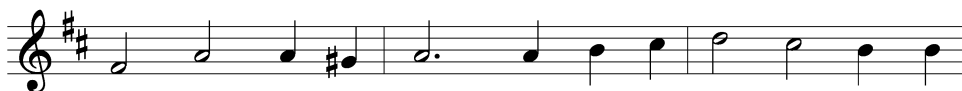
C: Thanks be to God.

90C We Live, O Lord, within Your Grace

Psalm 90C



1 We live, O Lord, with - in your grace, for you have
 2 A thou - sand years with - in your sight pass like a
 3 You say to chil - dren of the earth: "Re - turn to
 4 The fu - ry of your wrath dis - mays! Your light our



been our dwell - ing place; be - fore the moun - tains came to
 watch with - in the night, like yes - ter - day when it is
 dust, which gave you birth!" We grow like grass be - neath the
 se - cret sin dis - plays! Our years are mea - sured by our



be, you are true God e - ter - nal - ly.
 through, the brief - est blink in all you view.
 sun, but with - er when our day is done.
 strength, yet toil and trou - ble is their length!

5 So teach us, Lord, to count our days;
 make wise our hearts to seek your ways.

How long, O LORD, till you return?
 How much, O LORD, for you we yearn!

7 Lord, let your work to us be shown,
 your glory by our children known.

Your favor rest on us each day;
 establish all our work, we pray.

6 Your steadfast love will satisfy
 and be our joy until we die.
 Though evil days may grieve our soul,
 we trust that you will make us whole.

8 O Father, Son, and Spirit, be
 our dwelling place eternally,
 and when the mountains are no more,
 your name we ever will adore!

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:5–8, 14

The writer to the Hebrews concludes his letter with a few reflections that help us to live by faith in Jesus.

⁵Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. For God has said:

I will never leave you, and I will never forsake you.

⁶So then we say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Carefully consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁴For we do not have a permanent city here, but we are looking for the city that is coming.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

Jesus teaches that as we reflect on this year's end, it with a mind toward readiness and his return.

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; ⁴but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ ¹³Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

P: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

P: You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

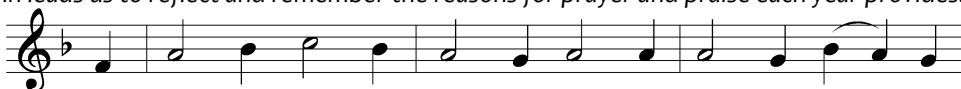
P: Glory to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

CW 367

This hymn leads us to reflect and remember the reasons for prayer and praise each year provides.



- 1 A - cross the sky the shades of night this New Year's Eve are
- 2 Be - fore the cross, sub - dued, we bow, to you our prayers ad -
- 3 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, our dear ones in your
- 4 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, we pray your hand may



fleet - ing. We deck your al - tar, Lord, with light, in sol - emn
dress - ing, re - count - ing all your mer - cies now and all our
car - ing who bright - ly shine in end - less day, past death and
guide us, and, on - ward through our jour - ney home, your mer - cy



wor - ship meet - ing; and, as the year's last hours go by, we
sins con - fess - ing. We ask you, Lord, this com - ing year to
all de - spair - ing. When ends our life, Lord, as your own, bring
walk be - side us un - til at last our ran - somed life is



raise to you our ear - nest cry, once more your love en - treat - ing.
keep us in your faith and fear and crown us with your bless - ing.
us with them a - round your throne, the joys of heav - en shar - ing.
safe from per - il, toil, and strife when heav'n it - self shall hide us.

a

Children of the Heavenly Father

CW 502

Our source of comfort, peace, and safety remains the same no matter how many years pass to the next.



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
 2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; in his
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bos - om gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
 Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; in his might - y arms he bears them.
 show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, abr.; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, Sweden, 1873

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Tune: Public domain

Offering

To our guests: *Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

NOTE: At this time we are not passing the offering plates. You can place your offering in the plate in the Gathering Area as you leave today.

Lord's Prayer

CW 230

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

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Song of Simeon

P: Guide us waking, O Lord,

C: and guard us sleeping

P: that awake we may watch with Christ

C: and asleep we may rest in peace.

P: In peace, Lord, in peace you let your servant now depart according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for ev'ry people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

P: Guide us waking, O Lord,

C: and guard us sleeping

P: that awake we may watch with Christ

C: and asleep we may rest in peace, in peace, in peace.

P: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Eternal God, you are always the same and your years have no end. In your mercy we close another calendar year. It has been filled with your goodness to us. For this we humbly thank you. It has also known our sins, disobedience, and failures. For these we ask your forgiveness and pardon in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Since all our days are already written in your book, we ask that you be with us this new year. Be merciful to us and bless us with opportunities to carry your name into the world. Renew us in the knowledge of your promises and keep us in our baptismal grace throughout the new year so that all we think say and do will be dedicated to you and your name. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

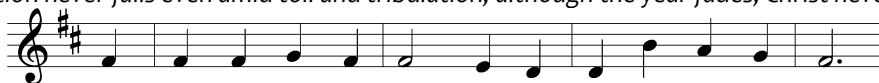
P: The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

C: Amen.

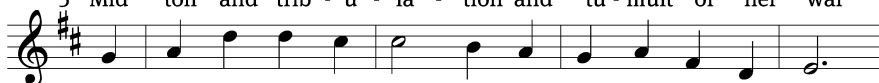
The Church's One Foundation

CW 855

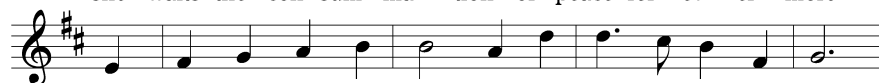
Our foundation never fails even amid toil and tribulation; although the year fades, Christ never will.



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord, to de - fend,
4 Tho' with a scorn - ful won - der the world sees her op - pressed,
5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end.
by schisms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
Tho' there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
a - gainst both foe and trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, abr., alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Prayer at the Close of Day from Christian Worship

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Thank you to those who helped facilitate our service this evening:

Presiding Minister: Tim Rosenow

Preacher: James Saatkamp

Accompanist: Cindy Lendt

Usher: Tom Leinberger

Who We Are

(Our Mission)

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. Like any family, we have our strengths and we have our weaknesses. We experience successes and we experience struggles. These are the things which unite us. For we know that we aren't perfect, but our Heavenly Father is; and he has loved us with a perfect love, sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and to give us eternal life in heaven. With that same love, he comes to us through his Word, the Bible, to equip us and encourage us as we live in a world which can leave us feeling discouraged and hopeless at times. So, as a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them. We want as many people as possible to know the joy and hope which we have as members of God's family.*

If you would like to learn more about our church family or the ministries we offer through our church, school, and preschool, please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or one of our members.

Thank you for being a part of our church family today!



St. Paul's Lutheran
Church and School
Precious Lambs Preschool

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Sunday worship: 9:30 AM
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10 minutes
after



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Hannah Foley *1st grade teacher*

Cindy Lendt *2nd grade teacher*

Lindsey Klingenschmitt *3rd and 4th grade teacher*

Noah Uhlenbrauck *5th and 6th grade teacher*

Justin Siegler *7th and 8th grade teacher*

Dorothy Draeger *Administrative assistant*