



St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

December 31, 2018
New Year's Eve



As We Gather... Technically speaking, New Year's Eve is not a "Church" holiday. Yet on this day, we cannot help but look back on the blessings we have received from God in the past twelve months and realize the strength He has provided in dealing with the challenges and joys of life in that same period. We also are moved to look forward, wondering what God has in store for us during the next year. Scripture reminds us that as the generations roll on year by year, we dwell in the hands of God, who loves us and promises to care for us just as He did in the year drawing to a close, so will He in the year about to begin.

Welcome! Guests: We are glad you are worshiping with us today!

Fellowship: Refreshments: Sundays, 9-11am in the Gathering Hall.

Holy Communion: Celebrated during all Worship Services on the first, third, and fifth weekends of the month.

We Care Cards: Everyone attending is asked to complete a Card, found in the pew rack and picked up by our ushers after our offering.

Parents With Children: Children's bulletins and Busy Bags are available. There is a quiet room with changing table in the back of church if needed.

Bible Study: See bulletin or splgrifton.org for options and times.

Servant Leaders:

Senior Pastor: Scott Kruse

Associate Pastor: Luke Anderson

Associate Pastor of Care Ministry:

Timothy Maschke

Pastor Emeritus: Larry Prahll

Pastor Emeritus: John Suelflow

Pastor Emeritus: Kenton Wendorf

Principal: Michael Yurk

Director of Music: Valerie Bremer

Director of Christian Ed: Kimberly Butz

Service Times:

Traditional Worship: Saturday 5pm; Sunday 8am & 11am; Monday 6:30pm

Contemporary Worship: Sunday 9:30am

Worship Services

Prelude	Ringing of the Bells and Lighting of Candles
Opening Hymn	“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” LSB 733
Invocation	Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. People: Amen.
Confession of Sin and Word of Forgiveness	<p>Pastor: Dear friends in Christ, as we seek to give thanks to God for His gifts in 2018 and pray His blessings on the new year, let us confess our sins and seek His kingdom and His righteousness.</p> <p>Pastor & People: O Lord our God, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. We change, but You never change. Often this past year we have attempted to follow the path of righteousness, but we have strayed. We have chosen to seek Your will and reverted to our own. We have committed ourselves to work for the sake of others and Your glory only to serve ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, for our many failures. Save us from our sins so that in the coming year we may come to know You better and walk in Your ways.</p> <p><i>Silence for reflection on the Lord’s mercy now and throughout the past year.</i></p> <p>Pastor: Jesus Christ is indeed the same yesterday and today and forever. (<i>Hebrew 13:8</i>) He is the one who says, “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (<i>Matthew 11:28</i>) and “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.” (<i>John 20:22-23a</i>) As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce this Christ to you, and in His name and by His command, I forgive you all of your sins. Amen.</p>
Hymn of Praise	“Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” LSB 868 St. 1, 4, 6
Salutation	Pastor: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.
Prayer of the Day	<p>Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.</p> <p>People: Amen.</p>
Anthem	“I Love You, Lord,” Male Choir
Old Testament Reading	<p>Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 <i>We are subject to times and changes over which we have little or no control, and contrast this state with God’s eternity. (Holy Bible p.705)</i></p> <p>Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.</p>
Epistle Reading	<p>Romans 8:31-39 <i>A Statement of Faith for the Future.</i></p> <p>Pastor: What then shall we say to these things?</p> <p>People: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?</p> <p>Pastor: Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect?</p> <p>People: It is God who justifies.</p> <p>Pastor: Who is to condemn?</p> <p>People: Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.</p> <p>Pastor: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”</p>

Pastor & **People: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

“Let Our Gladness Have No End” LSB 381 St. 1 & 4

1 Let our gladness have no end, alleluia! For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

4 Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia! He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Public domain

Holy Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the sixth chapter.

People: (sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 6:25-34 *Seek God’s kingdom first. (Holy Bible p.1031)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **People: (sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

“Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

Sermon

by Pastor Prahl

Offering

and announcements

Nicene Creed

(See inside back cover of LSB, or screen.)

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Abiding in the love of our Father, who did not spare His Son, but gave Him up for us all, let us pray for the Church, for the world, and for all who yearn for hope. For pastors, teachers, church workers, and for all the people, that we may never grow weary of proclaiming the Good News of God’s love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord. We pray,

People: abide with us, O Lord.

Pastor: For the leaders of the nations and for all of our elected leaders, that in the coming year they may make renewed efforts to work for peace, establish justice, and provide safety and well-being to all whom they govern. We pray,

People: abide with us, O Lord.

Pastor: For all who serve in our armed forces and may be far away from home during this festive season, and for all victims of war and violence, that in the midst of their fears and troubles, they may know God’s peace. For our enemies, that we and they may one day together experience the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. We pray,

People: abide with us, O Lord.

Pastor: For those who are sick, hospitalized, or suffering in any way, that through God’s love for us in Christ Jesus, they may experience healing and hope. We pray,

People: abide with us, O Lord.

Pastor: For all who travel, that they may arrive safely at their destinations. We pray,

People: abide with us, O Lord.

Pastor: For this holy assembly, that we would remain in Christ as His Word remains in us and that we would bear much fruit in the year to come. We pray,

People: abide with us, O Lord.

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. As we mark the relentless passage of time, hear our prayers, and help us to keep awake for the end of all time and the return of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Preface	<p>Pastor: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Pastor: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord. Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.</p>
Proper Preface	<p>Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh, You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:</p>
Sanctus	<p>“Holy, Holy, Holy” LSB 161 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</p>
Consecration	
Proclamation	<p>Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. <i>1 Corinthians 11:26</i> People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. <i>Revelation 22:20</i></p>
Lord’s Prayer	<p><i>(See inside back cover of LSB, or screen.)</i></p>
Sharing of Peace	<p>Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always. People: Amen.</p>
Agnus Dei	<p>“Agnus Dei” LSB 163 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.</p>
Distribution	<p><i>(Individual cup is offered on pulpit side; common cup on lectern side. Non-alcoholic wine (pink) is served in individual cups on pulpit side only.)</i> During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns: “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” LSB 570 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” LSB 809 “All Praise To Thee, My God, This Night” LSB 883</p>
Dismissal and Post-Communion Thanksgiving	<p>Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, You have brought us safely to the close of this year, another year of grace. By guidance of Your Holy Spirit, You have called us here to begin the new year with Your cleansing forgiveness and the nurture of Your Word and Sacrament. Hear us and answer us as we pray. People: Keep us firm in faith. Keep us in Your Word. Keep us faithful in the Sacrament. Fill us with Your Spirit. Enable us to serve You each day unto our end. Pastor: We pray boldly in the holy name of Your beloved Son Jesus! People: Amen.</p>
Benediction	<p>Pastor: May the Lord bless you in the year to come; may the Lord’s face shine upon you now and always; may the Lord look upon you with His favor and may He grant you His peace for time and eternity. People: Amen.</p>
Closing Hymn	<p>“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” LSB 390 St. 1,2,4</p>