



*“Consecrate yourselves, for  
tomorrow the Lord will do  
amazing things among you.”*

J o s h u a 3 : 5

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Howards Grove, WI  
New Year's Eve 2020



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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

**Worship during these times:** We offer distanced seating on one side of the sanctuary. We also encourage compliance for all who are able to wear a face covering to honor God's representatives in our state government. Door handles and pew backs are cleaned between Sunday services. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. All responses and songs are printed in your bulletin, which should be taken with you or discarded after worship. Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes in the narthex.

**Communion** is offered in worship each month on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Members who are not yet comfortable returning to worship during the pandemic may schedule a communion appointment with a pastor.

**DVDs:** DVDs of our worship services can be made per request. Please contact the office to make arrangements. In order to ensure cleanliness, you do not need to return a DVD. Please consider a small monetary donation (\$2) to cover the cost of the DVD if you request one.

**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.**

# Follow the Lord in the New Year

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

*Across the Sky the Shades of Night* | 69

- 1 Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting.  
We deck your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting,  
And, as the year's last hours go by, We raise to you our earnest cry,  
Once more your love entreating.
- 2 We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of your mercies.  
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r Our grateful song rehearses,  
For you have been our strength and stay In many a dark and dreary day  
Of sorrow and reverses.
- 3 Before the cross, subdued, we bow, To you our prayers addressing,  
Recounting all your mercies now And all our sins confessing.  
We ask you, Lord, this coming year To keep us in your faith and fear  
And crown us with your blessing.
- 4 And while we pray, we lift our eyes To dear ones gone before us,  
Safe home with you in Paradise, Where Jesus will reign o'er us,  
And ask of you, when life is past, To reunite us all at last  
With those who've gone before us.
- 5 Then, gracious God, in years to come, Whatever may betide us,  
Right onward through our journey home, Oh, stay at hand to guide us,  
Nor leave us till, at close of life, Safe from all peril, toil, and strife,  
Heav'n shall enfold and hide us.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE REMINDERS

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

**C: Amen.**

M: O Lord, you have been our help in the past.

**C: I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from?**

**ALL: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

(Psalm 121:1,2)

**HYMN**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | 441 v. 1

**1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.**

M: O Lord, you are our defense in the present.

**C: He will not let your foot slip; he who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**ALL: The LORD watches over you, the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**

(Psalm 121:3-6)

**HYMN**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | 441 v. 2

**2 Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.**

M: O Lord, you will be our hope in the future.

**C: The LORD will keep you from all harm; he will watch over your life.**

**ALL: The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7,8)**

**HYMN***O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | 441 v. 6

**6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Lord God, as we end one year and enter another year, we do it with the reminder that you are with us every step of the way. We are grateful for your care and thankful for your concern as we followed you in faith. Bless us who have gathered in your name on this last day of 2020. Come to us in your Word and comfort us with that Word. Help us to see your blessing in our lives and hear our praise from our lips; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN***Jesus, Lead Us On* | 422 v. 1

**1 Jesus, lead us on Till our rest is won;  
And although the way be cheerless, We will follow, calm and fearless.  
Guide us by your hand To our fatherland.**

**DEVOTION****JOSHUA 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. <sup>2</sup>After three days the officers went throughout the camp, <sup>3</sup>giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. <sup>4</sup>Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it."

<sup>5</sup>Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

<sup>6</sup>Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them.

*Follow the LORD in the New Year  
With Patience - With Purpose*

**HYMN**

*Jesus, Lead Us On | 422 v. 4*

**4 Jesus, still lead on Till our rest is won.  
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us; Still support, console, protect us  
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**M:** We stand before our God and see our sin. We acknowledge it in sincerity and admit it in honesty.

**C:** Lord God, heavenly Father, you know all. I am not able to keep from you the wrongs of this day nearly over or this year now done. I have gone against you ...

**With my careless thoughts,  
With my loveless words,  
With my thoughtless actions.**

**Have mercy on me and be gracious to me.**

**HYMN**

*O Lord, Our Father, Thanks and Praise | 72 v. 4*

**4 Our faithful God, we cry to you: Still bless us with your favor,  
Blot out all our iniquity, And hide our sins forever.  
Grant us a happy, good new year And, when the hour of death draws  
near, A peaceful, blest departure.**

**M:** God has been merciful to us and is good to us. He sends all of our sins away because Jesus died for them on the cross and delivered us from them through his resurrection. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

M: I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: To him be the glory right now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN

*Father, Let Me Dedicate* | 75 v. 1

**1 Father, let me dedicate All this year to you,  
In whate'er my earthly state, In whate'er I do.  
Not from sorrow, pain, or care Freedom dare I claim;  
This alone shall be my prayer: Glorify your name.**

## THE SACRAMENT

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In his body and blood with the bread and wine we have the assurance that you are with us. We have pardon from you and peace with you. Therefore we sing:

## HYMN

*O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee* | 316 v. 1, 2

- 1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee  
My heartfelt thanks forever be,  
Who hast so lovingly bestowed  
On me thy body and thy blood.
- 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:  
What wealth is come to me this day!  
My Savior dwells within my heart—  
How blest am I! How good thou art!

## 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: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace.

**C: Amen.**

**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

*The Old Year Now Has Passed Away* | 71

- 1 The old year now has passed away; We thank you, O our God, today  
That you have kept us through the year When danger and distress were near.
- 2 We pray you, O eternal Son, Who with the Father reigns as one,  
To guard and rule your Christendom Through all the ages yet to come.
- 3 Take not your saving Word away, Which lights and cheers our souls each day.  
Abide with us and keep us free From error and hypocrisy.
- 4 Oh, help us to forsake all sin, A new and holier life begin!  
Forgive the old year's sins, and bless The new year with true happiness,
- 5 Wherein as Christians we may live Or die in peace that you can give,  
To rise again when you will come And enter your eternal home.
- 6 There shall we thank you and adore With all the angels evermore.  
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith To praise your name through life and  
death.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

**M:** In the final hours of this year, we come to you to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace that we freely receive from you.

**C:** Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. (Psalm 106:1)

**M:** We ask that you continue to go before us as we go after you. Strengthen us with Word and Sacrament and send us what is beneficial to us. We know that you will since you are faithful in all you say and do.

**C:** Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!"

**ALL:** Praise the LORD. (Psalm 106:48)

**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.**

## **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.**

*Be seated.*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Abide with Me | 588 v. 5-7*

- 5 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!**
- 6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**
- 7 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

*SPECIAL MUSIC COPYRIGHT INFORMATION*

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**HYMNS:**

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*SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:*

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**PASTOR:** Rev. Dan Voigt

**ORGANIST:** Marilyn Toepel

**ALTAR GUILD:** Marilyn Eirich, Karen Kuhn, Jenny Walleser, Sandy Bolz, Stefani leverenz

**USHERS:** 8:00 a.m.- Eric Specht, Doug Mattek, Steve Strassburg, Dexter Porter, Mike Austreng;

10:30 a.m.- Chad Hayner, Mike Heilman