

**New Year's Eve Worship
December 31, 2021 – 7:00 pm**

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214**



Opening Liturgy

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

C The light no darkness can overcome.

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:

C And the day is almost over.

P Be our light and scatter the darkness:

C And hear our evening hymn of praise.

P Lord God, we thank You for this day of grace now drawing to a close:

C Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ.

P May Your Word keep our faith burning brightly:

C That we may walk in the light of Your presence through the darkness of this world.

P Come and bless us as we worship You:

C Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 878 (1-4)

Abide with Me

P The Lord is my shepherd:

C **I shall not want.**

P He makes me to lie down in green pastures:

C **He leads me beside the still waters.**

P He restores my soul:

C **He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

P Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

C **For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies:

C **You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

C **And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Scripture Lessons

- 1 John 2:1-5, 15-17 – My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: | Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.
- Proverbs 3:1-6 – My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Hymn 722

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

Sermon

Based on Luke 12:32

As You Cross the Threshold Into the Unknowns of the New Year:

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Hymn 733

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Prayer / New Year’s Eve Offering

Confession of Sins & Words of Absolution

P Dear Friends in Christ: It is your desire to receive the Sacrament of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the assurance of the forgiveness of your sins, the strengthening of your faith in Him as your Savior, and the grace to serve Him with a God-pleasing life. In order that these blessings may be yours, it is necessary that you bear in mind the Word of God recorded by St. John in his First Epistle: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Deeply conscious of our guilt and trusting solely in the merits of Jesus Christ for forgiveness, let us make confession of our sins:

C Almighty God, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

P Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this? If so, then declare so by saying: "Yes, I believe." Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

C O Lord, my God, I called to You for help, and You answered me. I thank You for the love You have shown me in Christ my Savior. Through Him You have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve You and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Words of Institution / Distribution of the Sacrament

Post-Communion Prayer

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

From Hebrews 13:20-21

P 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, 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.

C (sings) Amen, amen, amen.

Closing Hymn 878 (5-6)



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