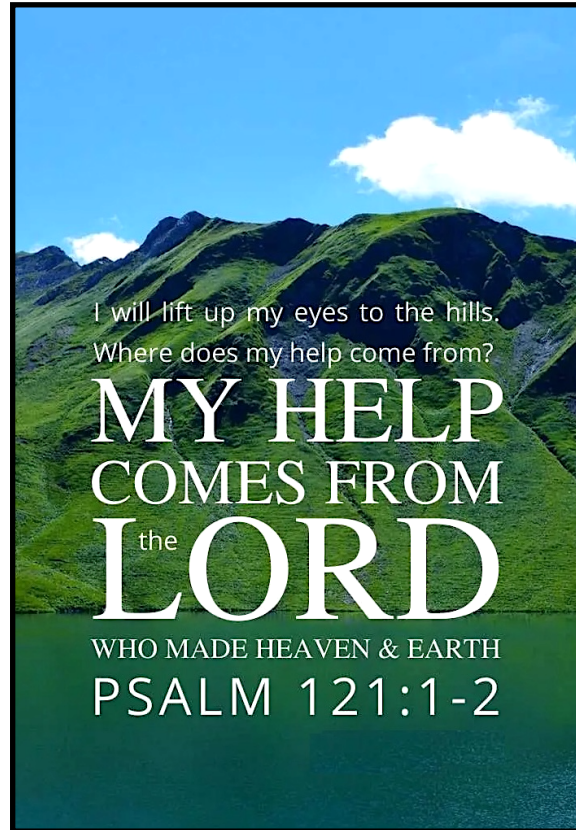


**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Colorado**



New Year's Eve Worship – December 31, 2024

Opening Prayer

Hymn 899

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

P O Lord, open my lips:

C And my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Hasten, O God, to save me:

C O Lord, come quickly to help me.

P/C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as
it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 121

P I will lift up my eyes to the hills:

C From whence comes my help?

P My help comes from the LORD:

C Who made heaven and earth.

P He will not allow your foot to be moved:

C He who keeps you will not slumber.

P Behold, He who keeps Israel:

C Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

P The LORD is your keeper:

C The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

P The sun shall not strike you by day:

C Nor the moon by night.

P The LORD shall preserve you from all evil:

C He shall preserve your soul.

P The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in:

C From this time forth, and even forevermore.

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 7:1-14

1 Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. 2 So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. 3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." 4 So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. 5 And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." 6 So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah. 7 Now when the Philistines heard that the

children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 8 So the children of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.” 9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. 10 Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, “*Thus far the LORD has helped us.*” 13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

Hymn 733

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

New Year’s Meditation

Based on 2 Peter 1:5-7

Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

“The Message of the Candles”

Hymn 704

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Offering & Prayer

Confession of Sins & Words of Forgiveness

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

Closing Liturgy

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, who is God from everlasting to everlasting, we thank You that You have been our Strength and our Stay in the old year; and we implore You to give us a strong faith that we may firmly believe that Your sustaining presence will be with us every passing hour in the new year. In Jesus' name, to whom with You and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C (says): Amen.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C (sings): Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn 917

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

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Acknowledgements

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"The Message of the Candles": Adapted from a 1956 New Year's Eve sermon by Rev. William H. Eifert.