

JESUS CHRIST

YESTERDAY, TODAY,
AND THE SAME
FOREVER.

HEB·13-8



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & Preschool

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OPENING SENTENCES FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

Please stand

M: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

C: **Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Psalm 90:1-2

M: A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Psalm 90:4

C: **The length of our days is seventy years – or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.** Psalm 90:10

M: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

C: **May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.**

Psalm 90:17

Please be seated

OPENING HYMN:

Father, Let Me Dedicate CW #75

Text: Lawrence Tuttiett, 1825-97, alt.

- 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.*

- 2 Can a child presume to choose Where or how to live?
Can a father's love refuse All the best to give?
More you give me ev'ry day Than the best can claim;
Help me trust you that I may Glorify your name.*

- 3 If in mercy you prolong Joys that now are mine,
If on life serene and fair Brighter rays may shine,
Let my glad heart, while it sings, You in all proclaim
And, whate'er the future brings, Glorify your name.*

- 4 If you have for me a cross And its shadow come,
Turning all my gain to loss, Shrouding heart and home,
Let me think how your dear Son To his glory came
And in deepest woe pray on: "Glorify your name."*

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION from The Lutheran Hymnal © 1941
please stand

M: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

C: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Angels We Have Heard on High #63:1

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Eternal Father before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on 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 Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *Please be seated*

EPISTLE LESSON FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

1 Peter 1:23-25

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Alleluia. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
Alleluia Psalm 119:105

GOSPEL LESSON FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

Luke 13:6-9

Please stand

Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year. I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”

Please be seated

HYMN

Built on the Rock CW #529

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872, abr.
tr. Carl Döving, 1867-1937, alt.

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land; Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.*
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands, All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav’n above Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.*
- 3 We are God’s house of living stones, Built for his own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
Were we but two his name to tell, Yet he would deign with us to dwell
With all his grace and his favor.*

*4 Here stands the font before our eyes, Telling how God did receive us.
Th' altar recalls Christ's sacrifice And what the sacrament gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.*

*5 Grant then, O God, your will be done, That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come Where Christ his message is bringing:
"I know my own; my own know me. You, not the world, my face shall see.
My peace I leave with you always."*

SERMON LESSON

1 Peter 1:23-25

Build on Something that Can Never Change!

OFFERING

Visitors, it is a pleasure to have you with us. Please fill out a "visitor" card and place it in the offering plate as it comes around. We would love to get to know you better and tell you more about all we do here at St. Paul's. Already a WELS member, we would love to let your home church know you worshipped with us.

Members (of St. Paul's and other WELS congregations) tonight we have the privilege of partaking the Lord's Supper. In this Supper, God gives us His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. As we partake of it, we confess our faith in Christ's forgiving love and the unity of the faith that we share as a Church (visible & invisible). If you plan to commune, please register at the podium in the entryway or fill out a communion card and place it in the offering plate. We do ask that only confirmed members of St. Paul's or of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod partake of the Supper this evening.

Five Ways to Monetarily Support the Work of Our Church.

- "Vanco Mobile App" allows you to give from your smartphone. Simply look up the app in your phone's app store and follow the directions.
- Online giving is available at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com. Click on giving on the ribbon at the top of the page and follow the directions.
- Automatic withdrawal allows for the bank to simply deposit a regular amount from your account at intervals you choose. Contact the office for more information on how to get this set up.
- Mail or drop it in the birdhouse
- In-person giving it's an oldy but a goodie.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR NEW YEAR'S

M: It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you. You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

C: *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.* (CW #69:1)

M: You know what we need, and you give us all good things. Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand. We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

C: *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.* (CW #69:2)

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service. Regularly draw us to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: *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.*** (CW #69:3)

M: We rejoice with our fellow members who have escaped the sorrows of this world and, through Jesus Christ, have gone to enjoy the eternal pleasures of heaven this year.

After each name is read a bell will chime

† Lucille M. Kemnitz †	January 21
† Vivian M. Holmes †	January 28
† Gloria I. Thelke †	February 28
† Gwendolynn L. Bowe †	March 4
† Ronald W. Leeman †	May 25
† Maria K. Fleschner †	May 25
† Walton A. Schuette †	June 28
† Quinn R. Boehning †	July 29
† Raymond A. Brinkman †	November 18
† Kathleen A. Lindsley †	December 29

**C: *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.*** (CW #69:4)

*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.* (CW #69:5)

LORD'S PRAYER

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 SACRAMENT

THE PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) *And also with you.*

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sung) *We lift them up to the Lord.*

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

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

M: It is truly good and right ... we praise your holy name and join their glorious song.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sanctus)

C: (sung) *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, blessed is he,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ ... The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: (sung) *Amen.*

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)

C: (sung) *O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.
Amen.* *please be seated*

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

During the distribution we will sing the following hymns.

Help Us, O Lord for Now We Enter #70

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

1 *Help us, O Lord, for now we enter
Upon another year today.
In you our hopes and thoughts now center;
Renew our courage for the way.
New life, new strength, new happiness
We ask of you-oh, hear and bless.*

*2 May ev'ry plan and undertaking
Begin this year, O Lord, with you;
When I am sleeping or am waking,
Help me, dear Lord, your will to do.
In you alone, my God, I live;
You only can my sins forgive.*

*3 And may this year to me be holy;
Your grace so fill my ev'ry thought
That all my life be pure and lowly
And truthful, as a Christian's ought.
So make me while I'm living here
your faithful servant through the year.*

*4 Jesus, be with me and direct me;
Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire;
Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me;
Jesus, be all my heart's desire;
Jesus, be in my thoughts all day
And never let me fall away.*

*5 And grant, Lord, when the year is over,
That it for me in peace may close.
In all things care for me and cover
My head in time of fear and woes.
So may I, when my life is done,
Appear with joy before your throne.*

The Old Year Now Has Passed Away #71

Text: attr. Johann Steurlein, 1546-1613; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

*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.*

After the distribution the congregation stands and sings

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc Dimittis*)

C: (sung) *Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace
according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before the
face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel.*

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (sung) *And his mercy endures for-ev-er.*

M: *Prayer ... Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C: (sung) *Amen.*

BLESSING (*Nunc Dimittis*)

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: (sung) *Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice #64

Text: *Ander Theil Des Dressdenischen GesangBuchs*, Dresden, 1632;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

1 *Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son has given.*

2 *To this vale of tears he comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.*

3 *We are rich, for he was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.*

4 *O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Bless us and be near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!*