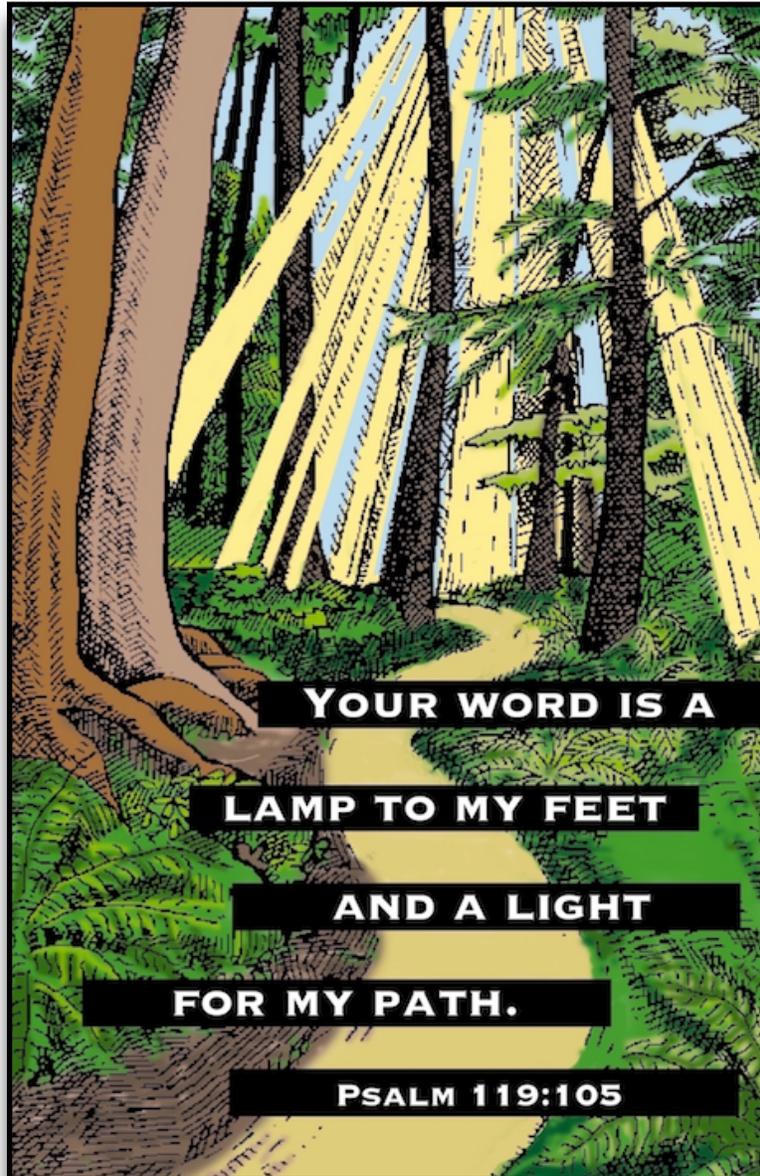


NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP
DECEMBER 31, 2020 – 7:00 PM



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

- 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 Blessed are You, O Lord our God, our merciful Savior:
C **Who led Your people Israel by a pillar of fire by night.**
P Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ:
C **May His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.**
P For You are merciful; You have loved us with an everlasting love:
C **We glorify You, our gracious Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn 890

O Blessed Light, O Trinity

Responsive Psalm Reading

From Psalm 27

- P The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?:
C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?**
P When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh:
C **When my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.**
P Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear:
C **Though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.**
P One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life:
C **To gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.**
P For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
C **He will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.**

Scripture Lessons

- ◆ Joshua 1:1-9 – After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you

go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

- ◆ James 4:13-15 – Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

Hymn 733

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Sermon

Based on Joshua 3:1-5
“The Road on the Other Side of the Jordan”

Prayer / Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 899

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

Confession of Sins and 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 / Benediction

Closing Hymn 390

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214
Thomas Schuetze, Pastor – (303) 428-5524
www.denverlutheran.com

Member Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)



Opening Prayer for New Year's Eve

Lord God, heavenly Father, as this year draws to a close and we meet in Your house one last time, be with us to bless us through the hearing of Your Word and the singing of Your praise, renew our faith, increase our love, instill even greater hope within our hearts as we serve You now and look forward to living with You forever. Grant us now the blessings of Your grace in our worship tonight for Your name's sake. Amen.

Altar Prayer

At the closing of another year, O Lord, and at the dawning of the new, we come before You with our prayers of thanksgiving. Throughout the past twelve months You have again been with us with Your boundless mercy, blotting out our transgressions in the blood of our divine Redeemer. We find comfort in knowing You will be with us in the coming year, forgiving our many sins because of the merits of our Savior. Lord, as we contemplate the unknown year which stretches out before us, we recognize our weakness. Whenever we are confronted by problems, trials, and troubles grant us grace to humbly confess: "With might of ours can naught be done." At this solemn hour we bring the difficulties and perplexities of the coming year to You, imploring You – according to Your gracious promise – to be with us to lighten our burdens, and finally to lead us out of darkness into light. Bless us in the new year, heavenly Father, to Your glory and our good, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

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.