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**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**GOD, OUR DWELLING PLACE IN ALL GENERATIONS**  
December 31, 2018

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

*O Lord my God, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever. I change, but you never change. I sin and bring grief to your heart, but you have patience with me and forgive me. You reach out to me with your Word, you bring me to repentance and back to you. Lord, I pray that I may never take your grace for granted. As I look back over the past year, I see my many sins and follies and my many mistakes. Forgive me, O Lord, all the sins I have committed. I praise you that as I enter this new year I know that I have a clean record in your sight. Empower me in the coming year to walk more closely with you. Amen.*

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

M In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**NEW YEAR CONFIDENCE**

**Psalm 90**


M LORD, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

All	♪	O God, our help in ages past,	Under the shadow of your throne
		Our hope for years to come,	Your saints have dwelt secure;
		Our shelter from the stormy blast,	Sufficient is your arm alone,
		And our eternal home.	And our defense is sure.


M Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Women ♪ Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting you are God,  
To endless years the same.


M You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."

**Men**      **Your word commands our flesh to dust:**  
"Return, O sons of men!"  
All nations rose from earth at first  
And turn to earth again.


**M**     For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

**Women**  **A thousand ages in your sight**  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.


**M**     You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—

**Men**      **Time, like an ever-rolling stream,**  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.

**M**     though it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

**All**      **Like flow'ry fields the nations stand,**  
Pleased with the morning light;  
The flow'rs beneath the mower's hand  
Lie with'ring ere 'tis night.

**M**     Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**All**      **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**     The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

M Let us pray.

Eternal God, we commit to your mercy and forgiveness the year that has ended and commend to your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.




### FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 40:1-8**, Bible page 718

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever.*

### PSALM 91

 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in his shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!"  
And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

Snares of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under his wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield.  
And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

### GOSPEL

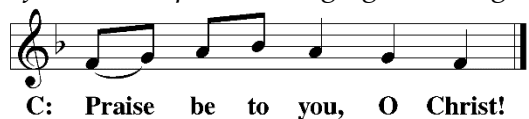
**Matthew 24:30-35**, Bible page 993

*Though change is inevitable in this world,  
God's Word will never change.*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## What's Going to Change in 2019?

### NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### OFFERING

*The offering is part of our worship of the Savior who has won for us the eternal blessing of being a part of God's family. Your gifts help share God's love with others.*

### PRAYERS

**M** Gracious God, you are the giver of all good things. As we bring these gifts to you, we give thanks for all the bounty you have given us during the past year. Bless these gifts, that they may bring glory to your name and may build your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**M** I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever.

**C** **Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

**M** It is fitting, O Lord, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**C** **You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

**M** You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**C** **You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

M Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

**C We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

M We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**C Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**C We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

M As we stand at the doorway to another new year, we are reminded of our sins of the year that has just passed. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But God has promised that, if we acknowledge our sins and confess them to him, he will forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

M Let us openly and honestly confess our sins to God, our Father.

Almighty God,

**C we confess before you and one another that we have sinned against you and against one another. We have sinned in our words and actions, and have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind, and spirit. Forgive us, we pray, restore us, and renew us for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

M Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, it is my responsibility and my privilege to announce the grace of God to you. In the place of and by the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

M Taught by our Lord and trusting his promise, we are bold to pray:

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

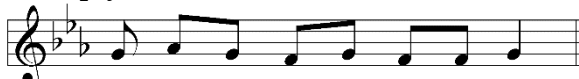
## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M Heavenly Father, you have indeed been our refuge throughout all generations. Even before you created the heavens and the earth, you chose us in Christ to be your own. At the close of this year, we praise you for your constant love and compassion, having forgiven our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ and having restored us to your family. For these and all that you do to support our bodies and souls, we join together with angels, the archangel, and all the generations of believers who have gone before us and those generations yet to come, to praise you and sing:

## SANCTUS HYMN

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of heav'n and earth.  
Blessed is the one who comes  
Through the virgin's birth.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Who by promise came;  
Sing "hosanna," heav'n and earth  
Praise his holy name!**

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD



O Lamb of God, You take a-way Our sin, its guilt and  
pow - er. Lord Je - sus Christ, You take a-way The  
world's sin and its pow - er. Have mer - cy,  
Lamb of God, Have mer - cy, now we pray You  
Grant peace to trou-bled hearts Grant peace,we now im-ploreYou.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please see Communion note on page 8.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 75

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**Father, Let Me Dedicate  
Abide with Me**

## CLOSING PRAYER

**M** Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**C** **From everlasting to everlasting, you are God!**

**M** Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for having fed us with the very body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Through this gift of life, strengthen us to meet the challenges of the new year, remaining strong in faith and in hope, that we may be faithful until the day when our Lord comes to guide us to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## BLESSING

**M** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.



**C:** A - men. A - men. A - men.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGANIST *Darik Mischke*

### OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

*The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.*

*We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes, entitled *Following the Promise*, to provide an overview of our teachings. Contact Pastor Nate Strobel at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org) to find the session that works best for your schedule.*

*If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of *Christian Worship* to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.*

*The light-colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pew in the left center section is reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.*



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.