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NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

December 31, 2019

Today is the day for New Year's resolutions. If you still are working on yours, today's service will help. We'll see how God's word guides us as we look to formulate our own New Year's Resolutions: The Spiritual Edition

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Across The Sky The Shades Of Night

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.

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.

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.

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.

INVOCATION

- M As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

- M With the closing of another year, we look back in appreciation for the many joys and blessings God showered on us.
- C **Thank you, Lord, for the goodness you have shown to us in the past year. You have blessed us in ways too numerous to count. You have sustained us in times of trouble in ways we cannot ever fully appreciate.**
- M Tonight, we also look back on our many sins, and in sorrow for our weakness, seek to unburden ourselves before God of all that has the power to destroy our relationship with him.
- C **Merciful Father, this past year we have sinned against you and against others again and again. We have grieved your heart with our rebellion in thought, word, and deed. Even though we bear the name "Christian," we have failed to lead lives worthy of that calling. We have not done the good things you require of us in your commandments. We ask your forgiveness in the name of Jesus, your only Son, who died for our sins. We ask your Holy Spirit, in the year now beginning, to empower us to be better and faithfully reflect the image of Christ in all we think, do, and say.**
- M God has heard your confession. His love, mercy, and grace are everlasting. Therefore, hear with believing hearts the words of St. Paul recorded in the letter to the Romans: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies." Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

M As we begin a new year, forgiven by God, we are reminded that we are his redeemed saints. We forge ahead, not in bondage, but in freedom; no longer in futility, but persevering in hope that does not disappoint us. God bless us and keep us in the coming year.

RESPONSE

O Lord, Our Father, Thanks and Praise

**Our faithful God, we cry to you:
Still bless us with your favor,
Blot out all our iniquity,
And hide our sins forever.
Grant us a happy, good new year
And, when the hour of death draws near,
A peaceful, blest departure.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.
Dear Lord, we thank you for your never-ending assurance of forgiveness every day on the pages of your word. We ask that this forgiveness now empowers us to live lives that give you glory, in all we do, in this year and for years to come.

C **Amen.**

RESOLUTION #5

Spend More Time with Family

The Bible has a lot to say about good family relationships. God has given us family to take care of each other, show love to one another, and to encourage each other in the ways of the Lord. The same truths can also apply to our church family.

1 Timothy 5:1-4; 8

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. ³Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ⁸If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

HYMN

For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray

For Christian Homes, O Lord, we pray,
That you might dwell with us each day.
Make ours a place where you are Lord,
Where all is governed by your Word

We are the children of your grace;
Our homes are now your dwelling place.
In you we trust and daily live;
Teach us to serve and to forgive.

Protect us and our loved ones dear
From pain and sorrow, want and fear;
Yet when we must our burdens bear,
"Your will be done" shall be our prayer.

RESOLUTION #4

Manage God's Resources Better

Everything that we have has been given to us from God. When we recognize that we are merely stewards of God's resources (Psalm 24:1), we approach our time, talents, and treasures in a God-pleasing way and strive to use them to give God glory.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

HYMN

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best --
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!

All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.

RESOLUTION #3

Take Care of the Holy Spirit's Temple

1 Corinthians 6:19 calls our bodies, "temples of the Holy Spirit." This New Year's resolution deals with upholding God's gift of life and caring for those temples.

Psalm 139:13-16

- ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

HYMN

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

O Holy Spirit, enter in
And in our hearts your work begin,
Your dwelling place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine,
To joy and gladness wake us
That we May be Truly living,
To you giving Prayer unceasing
And in love be still increasing.

Give to your Word impressive pow'r
That in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing,
That in true Christian unity
We faithful witnesses may be,
Your glory ever showing.
Hear us, Cheer us By your teaching;
Let our preaching and our labor
Praise you, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

RESOLUTION #2

Get Into The Word

God graciously has preserved for us his Old and New Testaments to share with us what we need to know for salvation (John 20:31). Through the word, the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens faith and guides us in our lives of holy living. If you are interested in a new Bible reading plan for 2020, there are copies of a reading plan available at the Welcome Center that will take you through the entire Bible in one year. Pastor Pete Panitzke reads the same Bible readings for his own spiritual growth each day as well. If you have any questions about what you read for the day you are encouraged to contact him at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org.

Hebrews 4:12

¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

HYMN

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.

RESOLUTION #1

Remember the Lord!

Deuteronomy 8:10-20

¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹²Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

¹⁹If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. ²⁰Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

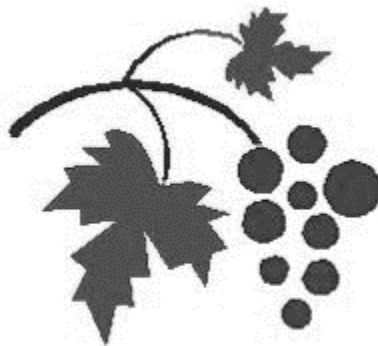
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

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.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O God our gracious Father, as we stand on the threshold of the New Year, we are painfully mindful of our stubborn and sinful natures, which have often led us to do the very things You have forbidden, and to neglect the things You have commanded.

C **Do not be angry with us on account of our sins, but for Jesus' sake, freely pardon us.**

M We are also mindful of the blessings You have showered upon us in the past and also our need for Your continual presence in the future. Years come and go, but You, our God, are ever the same. We are confident that from day to day and year to year Your tender kindness and compassionate love will rest upon us, because You have adopted us as Your children through Jesus.

C **We thank and praise You for this and we desire to serve and obey You.**

M Give us grace through the Spirit to resist the devil, the world, and our flesh with a steadfast faith that is nurtured daily by Your Word.

C **Watch over us, ever guiding, guarding, and protecting.**

M Lord, hear us as we bring You our private petitions.

Other prayers may follow

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.



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:

**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 is holy name!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 11.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 70
75

**Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter
Father, Let Me Dedicate**

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 shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREACHER *Pastor Wayne Shevey, Campus Pastor at Wisconsin Lutheran College*

PRESIDING MINISTER *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*



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.

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 new membership classes (*Following the Promise*) to provide an overview of our teachings. Please ask one of our pastors for the date when the next class begins.

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 a card in the pew and handing it to an usher.

In addition, the light colored cups in the center of the individual cup trays contain non-alcoholic wine, and the first pew on the lectern (right) side is reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the communion rail. When at the rail be sure to hold your individual cup until the common cup distributor reaches you, so he knows your intention.

