



NEW YEAR'S EVE

DECEMBER 31, 2025 | 7:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

A NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER

You have promised, O Lord, that You will be with us to the very end of the age. Now as the end of this year draws to a close, we thank You for all the ways You have been with us through the past year—supporting, strengthening, guiding, comforting, and healing. And we look forward to sharing all our moments with You in the coming year. Be our constant companion in whatever comes our way; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation/All

✙ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.

We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 27:1; 1 John 1:5b*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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 God is light,

C and in him is no darkness at all.

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *1 John 1:6–7, 9–10; 2:8*

P If we say we have fellowship with [God] while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

C But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.



P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The darkness is passing away

C **and the true light is already shining.**

OPENING HYMN 367 *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending 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.

C **Amen.**



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2–7*

The deep darkness of sin and its tragic effects will be erased by the light of a heavenly Child who will rule as the “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they

rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken

as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlast-

ing Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *from Psalm 27 NIV*

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 the wicked advance against me to devour me,

C **it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.**

P Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

C **though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.**

P One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:

C **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on 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 sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.**

P Hear my voice when I call, LORD;

C **be merciful to me and answer me.**

P Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

C **Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.**

P I remain confident of this:

C **I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

P Wait for the LORD;

C **be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**

EPISTLE *Romans 8:31b–39*

Saint Paul asks, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus

is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it

is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor

life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:35–40*

Jesus teaches His followers always to be ready for His return on the Last Day.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁵[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at

table, and he will come and serve them.

³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 899 *“Across the Sky the Shades of Night”*

SERMON *“Rejoicing in the Light”*



GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.



We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
P It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS | Holy, Holy, Holy *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH ("From Heaven Above to Earth I Come")

- C** (sung) O holy, holy, holy One
All pow'r and might are Yours alone.
With loud hosannas now we sing
Our praises to our newborn King.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26*

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death
until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

G 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.

PAX DOMINI | Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

AGNUS DEI | Lamb of God *John 1:29*

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH ("From Heaven Above to Earth I Come")

G (sung) O Lamb of God, upon the cross
You bore the weight of sin for us.
In Your great mercy and Your love
Give us Your peace from heav'n above.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

HYMN 733 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

HYMN 390 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 878 *“Abide with Me”*

SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Portions of this service from *Lutheran Service Book*, copyright © 2006, Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission. The Sanctus and Agnus Dei written by Michael Pottschmidt, 2016.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Church year icon on cover designed using resources from Flaticon.com; used with permission.

SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Kahlan Haase, Lindsay McKeage, *Acolytes*



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

401 S. MAIN STREET, CONCORDIA, MO 64020

CHURCH OFFICE: (660) 463-2291 | SCHOOL OFFICE: (660) 463-7654

STPAULSCONCORDIA.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/STPAULSCONCORDIAMO