

2025

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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Father Let Me Dedicate all this Year to Thee

Pre Service Psalm: Psalm 13 Hymnal page 124

Opening Prayer:

Oh most gracious Father in Heaven, we come before you to worship and praise you for all the blessings of the year just past, and we seek your blessings for the year to come. Come to us through Your word to strengthen us in the true faith that we may dedicate this new year to Your holy name. We ask this in the name of Jesus Your Son who became flesh to reconcile us to you forever. Amen

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Opening Hymn: 716 st. 1-5 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

1 Now greet the swiftly changing year With joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace Another year of grace.

2 When Jesus came to wage sin's war, The Name of names for us he bore.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace Another year of grace.

3 His love abundant far exceeds The volume of a whole year's needs.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace Another year of grace.

4 With such a Lord to lead our way In hazard or prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space In this new year of grace?

5 "All glory be to God on high, And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace Another year of grace.

Confession of sins

C: O most merciful God, as we look back over the past year we must confess that we have so often failed to do the good that You desire, and we have done the evil which you forbid. We flee to Your gracious arms and plead for your mercy in Christ Jesus. Cleanse us from all our sin and iniquity and move us to live to serve and praise Your holy name forever and ever.

P: God our heavenly Father has had mercy upon us and has forgiven all our sins through Jesus who was born as a man to die for us. As He promises; he that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all, and fill our hearts with praise.

Cong. Sing:

Melody of Hymn 568

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our thanks we now bring;
Forgiveness You gave us, Your children You have made us,
We bless Your holy name, Glad praises we sing.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 90

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

P: You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men."

C: For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.

P: You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep.

C: In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

P: In the morning it flourishes and grows up;

C: In the evening it is cut down and withers.

P: For we have been consumed by Your anger,

C: And by Your wrath we are terrified.

P: You have set our iniquities before You,

C: Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

P: For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;

C: We finish our years like a sigh.

P: The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

C: Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

P: Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

C: So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Scripture ReadingsPsalm 145

“1 I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. 5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. 6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. 7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness. 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. 10 All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. 11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power; 12 To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Confession of Faith: The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: 123 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!

2. Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,

From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
5. Thy word commands our flesh to dust:
"Return ye sons of men!"
All nations rose from earth at first
And turn to earth again.
6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
7. Like flowery fields the nations stand,
Pleased with the morning light;
The flowers beneath the mower's hand
Lie withering ere 'tis night.
8. Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while troubles last
And our eternal Home!

Sermon: Joshua 24:14-18

14 "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

16 So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God."

Theme:

Whom Will You Serve?

1. Remember God's Track Record!

2. Fear the Lord!

3. Serve Him in Sincerity and in Truth

P: The Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6 Cre ate in me a lean heart, O God, and re
12 new a right spir - it with in me. Cast me not a -
17 way from your pre - sence, and take not your ho - ly Spir - it from me. -
22 - Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
28 hold me with your spir - it free. Cre - ate in me a clean
heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering of Thankful hearts:

Sing while bringing up the offering) Melody of Hymn 777

We praise You, Lord, Redeemer, King

For all the Grace you bring.

Receive our gifts of thankfulness

And hear the praise we sing.

Hymn: 118 Father, Let Me Dedicate

1. Father, let me dedicate
All this year to Thee,
In whatever earthly state
Thou wilt have me be.
Not from sorrow, pain, or care
Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer:
Glorify Thy 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 Thou givest every day
Than the best can claim
Nor withholdest aught that may
Glorify Thy name.

3. If in mercy Thou wilt spare
Joys that yet are mine;
If on life, serene and fair,
Brighter rays may shine,
Let my glad heart while it sings
Thee in all proclaim
And, whate'er the future brings,
Glorify Thy name.

4. If Thou callest to the cross
And its shadow come,
Turning all my gain to loss,
Shrouding heart and home,
Let me think how Thy dear Son
To His glory came
And in deepest woe pray on:
"Glorify Thy name."

The Lord's Prayer for a New Year:

Cong: Our Father Who art in Heaven.

Pastor: Gracious God in heaven, we praise You that You have adopted us as Your own sons and daughters through the saving work of Your Son Jesus Christ.

Teach us to call upon You as dear children call to their dear father in every need and trouble.

Cong: Hallowed be Thy Name.

Pastor: Dear Father, You tell us in Your Word that Your name is more than what we call You. Your name is everything You do and what You are. You have revealed that Your *“Name is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”* Prov. 18:10 Grant us Your Spirit to keep Your name holy in the new year and to guard Your name and reputation in our hearts and lives.

Cong: Thy kingdom come.

Pastor: Dear Father, Your kingdom comes even without our asking and always in spite of our failures. We pray that we will submit to your loving rule in our hearts and lives. That we may let Your kingdom spread further within our own hearts by continuing daily in your word. We also pray, O Father in the upcoming year, that you may use us to spread your Kingdom as we support the work of missions and personally become involved in sharing your word with those around us.

Cong: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Dear Father, You tell us in Your Word that You work all things together for the good of your church. Your will for us is always best. May we always trust your will in our lives. May You also work in us the desire and commitment to do your will in our lives. May we not turn to the opinions of men but always learn from You what is good and right.

Cong: Give us this day our daily bread.

Pastor: Dear Father, there was never a day this past year where You did not provide for our physical needs. Yet, like the Israelites of old, we have complained about what You provide for us or what You have not given. Many times we wasted Your abundance of physical blessings. Teach us to be thankful to You for all these blessings and to use them in ways that are pleasing to you, especially using the over-abundance which You provide for us to reach out to others in need and to spread Your saving gospel.

Cong: And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Pastor: Dear Father, as we look back over the past year we confess that we have often failed to keep your name holy and give our all to spreading your Kingdom. We have not always done Your will in our lives and complained about Your will as it was revealed in our life. Forgive us for Jesus sake, for it is only by that forgiveness that we have a relationship with You. When we were most unworthy, You looked on us with compassion and sent Your only-begotten Son to die for us. We also confess that we have withheld forgiveness from fellow sinners and spoken harsh words rather than forgiving. Oh, forgive us also for this sin of our flesh and move us to be as gracious and forgiving to all others as you have been to us. In the coming year, keep Your Son's cross before our eyes so that we always live in your grace and show your grace to all.

Cong: And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

Pastor: Dear Father, it is very evident from the world in which we live that there is evil all around us and even within us. By Your Spirit teach us to be on guard against all evil. Teach us to flee youthful lusts and to practice self-denial rather than self-gratification. In the upcoming year, help us to

resist evil both without and within. Burn Your Word into our hearts so that when temptation comes we may recognize the way of escape and take it.

Cong: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: Dear Father, as in this past year You have provided bread for our bodies and sustenance for our souls through Your Word, may You do so also in the coming year and always until You bring us to live with You in our eternal mansions in heaven. Amen. Come quickly Lord Jesus! Amen!

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 716 st. 6-7

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

6 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear: To all our pleas incline your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace In this new year of grace.

7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear! To all our pleas incline Your ear.
Upon our lives rich blessing trace In this new year of grace.

† † †

**We wish all of you a New Year filled with God's
Amazing Grace.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday: Worship Service with Communion at 10:00

Our Sunday School and Bible class resumes at 11:20