

New Year's Eve  
December 31, 2018  
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

OPENING HYMN

“Across the Sky the Shades of Night”  
*CW 69*

INVOCATION AND PRAYER

Pastor/Congregation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray:

Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

In Holy Baptism, God gives us the Holy Spirit, who works in us both the desire to throw off the slavery of sin and the power to live a new life. May the Lord renew us in body, mind, and spirit. Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**HYMN**

**“Joy to the World”**

*CW 62: 3*

**No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

**Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions. Amen.**

**HYMN**

**“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”**

*CW 64: 4*

**O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Bless us and be near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!**

**LESSON**

Luke 13:6-9 (NIV)

*A parable that reminds us of our Lord’s gracious patience with us year after year as the Holy Spirit nourishes us to produce fruits of repentance in our lives.*

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

**HYMN**

**“The Old Year Now Has Passed Away”**

*CW 71*

**SERMON**

Psalm 90

A prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn men back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, O sons of men.” For a thousand years in your sight

are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered. We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

**Enter the New Year With a Heart of Wisdom**

*Pastor Zuberbier*

1. Understanding how fleeting your life is.
2. Rejoicing in how steadfast your God is.

**SERMON RESPONSE**

**“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

*CW 441*

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home,**

**Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.**

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

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

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

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!**

## GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

### PRAYER

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever. **Every day I will praise you and extol your name.** It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you. **You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.** You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they. **You know what we need, and you give us all good things.** Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand. **We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.** We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service. **Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** 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. **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.**

## A Carol Setting for Holy Communion

### PREFACE AND PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

P: May the Good Lord be with you. Lift your hearts to God in praise.

C: May the Lord be with you too. To the Lord our hearts we raise.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

In the Word of God made flesh Great and wondrous mystery  
Now we see with vision fresh God’s abundant majesty.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Therefore with the church on earth And the hosts of heav’n above  
Let us praise His name, whose birth Brings to us eternal love.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## THE PROPER PREFACE

Thanks and praise be to you, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old your faithful people waited for the day of your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and you sent forth Jesus Christ, your Son. Having seen his glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when he will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### THE SANCTUS

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav’n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!  
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord to you!

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

### THE CONSECRATION

“I Heard the Bells”

The night Lord Jesus was betrayed  
He took the bread, and when he’d prayed,  
He broke and gave them of the bread  
And unto his disciples said:  
Pastor offers the words of institution for the bread.

Then, when the sacred meal was o’er,  
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:  
He offered thanks, and lifted up,  
To give to all the sacred cup:  
Pastor offers the words of institution for the cup.

**THE AGNUS DEI**

**O Lamb of God, you take away  
The sin of all; now hear us pray,  
And grant us from our sin release:  
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

**“I Heard the Bells”**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**“Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter”**

*CW 70*

**“Father, Let Me Dedicate”**

*CW 75*

**“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**

*CW 38*

**THE THANKSGIVING**

**“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”**

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing his praise, What he has done proclaim!  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice And proudly bear his name  
Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.**

**Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Lord, let your servant go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled.  
My eyes have seen the saving work Which for the world you willed:  
The glory of your chosen race As light for all revealed.**

**Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Oh, Praise to God the Father, And praise to God the Son,  
And praise to God the Spirit, Most blessed Three in One,  
As twas, is now, and e'er shall be While endless ages run!**

**Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**P:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C:** And his mercy endures forever.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE BENEDICTION**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**P:** May the good Lord bless and keep, Cause his face on you to shine,  
Look on you with favor deep, Granting you his peace divine.

**C:** **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*The special New Year's Eve bulletins have been given by Lorin and Rose Orvis in memory of their parents, Orin and Edna Orvis and Jacob and Mollie Leonhardt.*