

Eve of the Year 2014 A.D.
A Celebration of our Changeless God in Changing Times
St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
December 31, 2013 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Fellowship Greeting

Opening Hymn #798 "The God of Abraham Praise" Stanzas 1-4 & 9

The God of Abr'ham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.

Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.

The God of Abr'ham praise, At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame and pow'r,
And Him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.

The God of Abr'ham praise, Whose all sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.

He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, To heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face; I shall His pow'r adore
And sing the wonders of His grace Forevermore.

*(Rise)*Jehovah, Father, great I AM! We worship Thee!"
The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Responsive Psalmody (Psalm 8)

Pastor: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the
earth.

People: You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Women: From the lips of children and infants you have
ordained praise**

**Men: Because of your enemies to silence the foe and the
avenger.**

Pastor: When I consider your heavens the work of your
fingers,

People: The moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

Women: What is man that you are mindful of him,

Men: The son of man that you care for him?

Pastor: You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings

People: And crowned him with glory and honor.

Women: You made him ruler over the works of your hands;

Men: You put everything under his feet:

Pastor: All flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,

**People: The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that
swim the paths of the seas.**

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit;

**People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

**All: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the
earth.**

Confession and Announcement of Grace

Pastor: The name of our God is majestic! The name of God's
Son, Jesus Christ, is the name that is above every
name! "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every
tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of
God the Father." Therefore, let us humbly confess our
sins to our Lord, trusting in the holy name of Jesus,
trusting the never-changing mercy and grace of God:

All: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. At times we trust in created things rather than trusting in you, our Creator. At times we seek security in mankind and the things he has made, rather than looking to you as our refuge and strength. For these sins and all other sins of both body and soul, we plead for mercy in the name above all names: Jesus Christ. Forgive us, fill us with your Spirit, leading and guiding us throughout the New Year.

Pastor: God sent His Son into the world and gave Him the name Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. Jesus took on human flesh and blood so He could bleed and die for us on the cross to bring us that salvation. Be of good cheer, all your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

People: Amen!

(Be seated)

Hymn #809 "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Stanzas 1 & 3

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not:
Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Collect for New Year's Eve

All: Lord God, heavenly Father, because you sent us your only-begotten Son for our salvation, and gave Him the name Jesus, grant that we may begin the New Year trusting in His saving name. Grant us also to live all our days in His service to the praise and glory of His holy Name; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

Old Testament Reading Psalm 102:18-28

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD: "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death." So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD. In the course of my life he broke my strength; he cut short my days. So I said: "Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end. The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you."

Responsive Verses

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Pastor: The Lord has made His salvation known

People: And revealed His righteousness to the nations.

New Testament Epistle Reading Hebrews 13:1-8

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves

were suffering. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(Rise) **Alleluia Verse**

Pastor: Alleluia. Alleluia. Come, let us bow down in worship,

People: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

All: Alleluia. Amen.

Reading of the Holy Gospel *Matthew 7:21-29*

[Jesus said,] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

Sermon Hymn #733 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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 Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy 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, Be
Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

Sermon "The Lord who Does Not Change" Hebrews 13:8

(Rise)

Offertory "Create in Me" Page 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not
Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy
salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(Be seated)

Offerings *As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.*

Confession of Faith #953 "We All Believe in One True God"

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Everpresent help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host; All
He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.

We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, Who
descended from His throne And for us salvation won; By whose
cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds, Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs. Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

(Rise) **Prayers for the New Year**

Pastor: Let us give thanks for the blessings of the past year and pray God's blessing upon the new year to come. Gracious Father, we give you thanks for your many blessings throughout this year;

People: we ask you to continue to bless us with your abundant gifts that sustain us from day to day throughout the coming calendar year.

Pastor: Almighty God, you sent your Son to be our Savior and gave Him the name above all names, the name that saves us from sin and death and opens the way to life everlasting.

People: We rejoice that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

Pastor: Gracious Father, out of the abundance of your mercy, you have put off the day of Jesus' return until the perfect time, when the number of your elect is complete.

People: Keep your people watchful, vigilant and awake with your gift of faith until the day of His return in glory.

Pastor: Lord of mercy and grace, because of our inability to keep your righteous commands, you sent your Son to take our place under your Law, obeying it perfectly and yet receiving the punishment we earned for our disobedience.

People: Even as we celebrate the first bloodshed of the infant Savior in His circumcision, keep us ever contrite in daily repentance, sincere sorrow over and confession of our sins.

Pastor: God of healing and hope, preserve those who are sick or suffering in the hope that you alone can give, for

your Son is He who bore our sins and infirmities on the cross and rose triumphant from the grave.

People: According to your good pleasure, grant them healing or relief, and comfort, hope, and peace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Gracious Father, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, for whom Jesus gives His body and blood this day in the Sacrament of the Altar, that we might receive these treasures in faith for the forgiveness of our sins.

People: Grant to all recipients of the Lord's Supper a right faith and a full, robust confidence in Jesus for His gift of His righteousness which is ours by grace through faith.

Pastor: We commend ourselves, one another and our whole life to you, our kind Father in heaven, for all the days to come. Gracious Father, these things and whatever else you know we need, grant us in your unending mercy, for we ask all this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Pages 194-198LSB

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

Distribution *Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.*

Hymn #761 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

Hymn #722 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way: Direct,
protect, and feed my From day to day. Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
so take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way. Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear, For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near. Close by Your side abiding,
I fear no foe, For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go. Lord, when the shadows lengthen
And night has come, I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend; So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Hymn #878 "Abide With Me"

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

The Dismissal

(Rise) **Collect for Peace**

**All: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed, give to your servants
that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts
may be set to obey your commandments, and also that
we, being defended by you, may pass our time in
quietness and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ,
our Savior. Amen.**

Benediction

Pastor: As you enter the New Year, greet it with the blessing of
God upon you: The Lord bless you and keep you; The
Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious
to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you
His peace.

People: Amen. Alleluia.

Departing Hymn #900 "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."

Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.

Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are
saved.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Worship Leader

Lector

Acolyte

Pastor Harold Bender

Jim Laux

Hailey Kadolph

Bulletin Sponsor: Carol Derus