

ALL SAINTS' DAY
Why Remember Saints?
November 1, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Every year on either November 1 or the first Sunday of November, we pause our busy lives to remember the saints. Lutherans teach that saints are sinners baptized into Christ, they are sinners redeemed by the cross of Jesus, and they are sinners who gave us examples of trusting not in their own heroic feats but in the grace and mercy of God in Jesus. Why remember saints? Our Augsburg Confession of 1530 says it clearly: "Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling" (AC XXI 1). Why remember the saints? To thank God for their life and witness, to be encouraged in our walk of faith, and to remember and rejoice for God giving us examples of how grace and faith look in the real lives of people we knew.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #676 "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White"

Behold a host, arrayed in white, Like thousand snowclad mountains bright!
With palms they stand; Who is this band Before the throne of light?
These are the saints of glorious fame, Who from the great affliction came
And in the flood Of Jesus' blood Are cleansed from guilt and shame.
They now serve God both day and night; They sing their songs in endless light.
Their anthems ring As they all sing With angels shining bright.

Despised and scorned, they sojourned here; But now, how glorious they appear!
Those martyrs stand, A priestly band, God's throne forever near.
On earth they wept through bitter years; Now God has wiped away their tears,
Transformed their strife To heav'nly life, And freed them from their fears.
They now enjoy the Sabbath rest, The heav'nly banquet of the blest;
The Lamb, their Lord, At festive board Himself is host and guest.

O blessed saints in bright array Now safely home in endless day,
Extol the Lord, Who with His Word Sustained you on the way.
The steep and narrow path you trod; You toiled and sowed the Word abroad;
Rejoice and bring Your fruits and sing Before the throne of God.
The myriad angels raise their song; O saints, sing with that happy throng!
Lift up one voice; Let heav'n rejoice In our Redeemer's song!

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, on this All Saints' Day, we gather in your name to remember and rejoice.

People: We remember the ones we love—ones loved also by you.

Pastor: We remember how you embraced them, showed them grace, and filled them with faith.

People: We remember with heavy hearts. We remember with thankful hearts.

Pastor: We rejoice in the resurrection life promised in and through Jesus.

People: We rejoice that Jesus has overcome death forever.

Pastor: We rejoice that you are God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who will never leave us nor forsake us.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In Baptism, God welcomes us into the family of Christ and embraces us with His love. Welcomed and embraced, we are free to confess our sins, trusting the power of Christ to lead us to newness of life.

People: We confess, good Lord, that we have sinned against you and our neighbors in thought, word, and deed. We have hungered and thirsted for unworthy things. Our hearts are not right within us. Forgive us, O God, for the sake of Jesus, our Brother.

Pastor: Today we hear these beautiful words from John: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God for our Baptism into Christ!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, you sustained those who have gone before us in faith, you showed them grace, and in their lives you have shown us examples of good works that are the fruit of faith in Christ. So sustain us in faith and grace, that we bear the fruit of faith with perseverance and joy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Revelation 7:2–17* (John catches a glimpse in a vision of God’s restoration of all creation.) ²Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: ⁵12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, ⁶12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, ⁷12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, ⁸12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed. ⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” ¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.” ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 John 3:1–3 (The Father loves us and calls us His children.) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 5:1–12 (Jesus blesses some of the least likely people, teaching us that He is blessing us in the midst of all circumstances.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” (AGPS 203)

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice. *Repeat song*

SERMON HYMN #677

“For All the Saints”

v 1-6

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON

HYMN #677

“For All the Saints”

v. 7-8

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

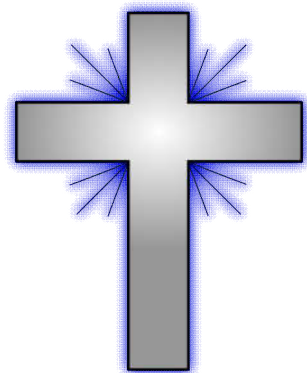
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Steven Bruce Nier | Mary Ella DeBona |
| Richard Lee Wendt | Elaine Jean Lemke |
| Gloria Kay Gammon | Kathleen Camille Librizzi |
| LaVerne Audrey Carrol Grawert | Gordon Dean Mueller |
| Janet Louise Lunog | John Albert Janezic |
| Thomas Michael Hudy | Michael Ray Wheeler |
| Gerald Joseph Daniel | Richard Ervin Lohman |
| Nancy Jean Claire Cesar | Gerald Thomas Spitzer |
| Caitlin Nicole Key | Mary C. Hunt |
| Rev. Thomas Peter Hinz | Judith Marie Speckmann |
| Shirley Ann Krznarich | Ashley Kriederman |
| Karen Frey | |

And I heard a voice from heaven saying,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"
Revelation 14:13

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our fellowship folder 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 folder along to others in your pew,

and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

8

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, faithful God, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things into your keeping. Deliver us in your righteousness from all that would harm the body or assault the soul. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, send your Spirit to the ministers of the Church who bring the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection, that they may work through the preaching of this Gospel to gather the lost, kindle faith in those who do not yet believe and sustain us all to the day of Christ's coming. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gentle Lord, visit the homes of your people, that they may be places where faith is nurtured and where we learn to live our new lives in holiness and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, and blessed are the persecuted, who suffer for your sake and whose witness calls all to faithfulness. Bring peace to the nations; make our leaders wise, just and honorable; and deliver us from terror, violence and oppression. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, comfort us by your abiding presence and satisfy all who call on you in need especially RoseMarie, Janice, Bill, Marga, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Don, Pat, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them patience in the midst of suffering and, according to your will, release them from their afflictions. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, be with your Church and all her members who belong to you by Baptism and faith. At the bidding of the Lamb, our Shepherd, give us

ears to hear your Word and faith to receive Him in His blessed Sacrament. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

9

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant that we may be brought to everlasting life with the faithful who have gone before us who now rest from their labors. Grant rest to those who mourn, looking for your Son's return. Especially be with Sarah Zellmer and family as they remember her mother, Debbie Nier and family as they remember the passing of Steve, and the Krznarich family mourning Shirley who passed away last week. Fill them with peace, hope and love. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, we give you thanks that you have washed us in the blood of the Lamb, written our names in the Book of Life, and made us a royal priesthood and heirs of an eternal inheritance. Though we are unworthy of your saving grace, we pray you to hear us in the name of Jesus Christ, in whom, with whom and through whom all honor and glory is yours, heavenly Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

10

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #685

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, There to live with you on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head.
We are your own living members; Where you live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly, Living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

HYMN #725

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.
God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.
Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

11

HYMN #594

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth’s treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I’ve traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness; I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open eyed my grave is staring: Even there I’ll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I’m a child of paradise!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your
mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you
and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son,
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and forever.

People: Amen.

12

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when we are poor in spirit.

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when we mourn.

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when we are meek.

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when we are merciful.

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when our hearts are right within us.

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when we struggle to make peace.

Pastor: Blessed are you

People: when we are reviled for trusting in Christ.

Pastor: Blessed are you. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the kingdom of God!

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING 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;

13

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.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
John Gieschen, Lillia Carson, Jim Laux
Deaconess Carole King

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