

## Home Worship November 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints Day

**Announcements** Today you are invited to light a candle at home during worship for someone on this All Saints Day. You are also invited to gather bread and juice for communion during worship.

**Indoor worship is on hold due to the pandemic.**

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

People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Jesus Christ from death to new life.

Your past, your sin, your failure, your doubt, are drowned and gone here.

Your fear, your confusion, your self-righteousness, your despair, are washed away by grace.

Your pride, your hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of you no longer define you.

The Spirit lives and moves through you now, a great and joyful mystery, so you may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

Rejoice that God has claimed you in this baptismal grace, not by your own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

And so, as we begin worship we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism

that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Amen.

Let us remember All the Saints before God, especially those who have died in Christ this year:

**Brittney Long Ruby Isley Ron Greenawalt Terry Pontnak Brian Ely**

You are invited to remember those whom you know now. I will now light a candle to remember all the people we commit to Christ Jesus. If you have a candle you may also light it.

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

*The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.*

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

<sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

<sup>12</sup>singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?"

<sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

**<sup>2</sup>I will glory in the LORD; let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; let us exalt God's name together.

**<sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors.**

<sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

**<sup>6</sup>I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me and saved me from all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD and delivers them.

**<sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!**

<sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

**<sup>10</sup>The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

*A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.*

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

<sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12      **Glory to you O Lord**

*In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The word of the Lord.....      **Praise to you O Christ**

Sermon

This week, we need the gospel of Jesus Christ urgently. Our national election is this week, please vote with the understanding that voting is a freedom that many countries do not have. We pray for peace. The virus is increasing in our community and the world. We look for healing. The days are getting darker as winter approaches. We pray for light. The gospel messages of Christ Jesus offer us peace, healing and light in our minds and hearts for the most important concern...which is God's love.

All Saints Day has been celebrated since at least the third century. We tend to call anyone who is committed to doing something good for others “a saint”. I’ve done it. That person is so good that other person... “what a saint!” The real definition for a saint however is someone who is baptized in Christ.

All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. We are invited to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. When we die our baptism is complete. Our faith as children of God is now with God, in heaven as it was on earth.

Our readings this week are filled with contrast: death and life, condemnation and redemption, sorrow and joy, suffering and relief, present life and future life. As baptized children of God our lives are in constant contrast.

So are we saintly sinners or....sinful saints? Yes. Both saint and sinner Martin Luther declared. In baptism we are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus which makes us saints while we are still sinners. One thing is for sure...there are no super Christians as scripture tells us: “*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus*” (*Ephesians 1:1*) There is no Christian Hall of Fame.

Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come. We give thanks for the examples of faithful living that the saints have given us as they navigated the stormy waters of life, and also for the faithful acts of service we are empowered by God’s Holy Spirit to do in our own seas. We give thanks, too, for the fullness of eternal life in which the saints of God who have gone before us now partake and which we have yet to fully enjoy.

Last week I encouraged you to find an item that reminds you of a loved one who has died in Christ. I have this little wallet bible that my father carried around with him. My father died in Christ in 1988. I now carry this little bible around with me in my wallet. All Saint’s Day is really a family reunion for all our loved ones who had faith in Christ. In these times of physical distancing from the pandemic, we can call this day, All Saints Day, a family reunion of those we loved that God now embraces.

Jesus offers a picture of those whom God loves in the beatitudes of Matthew today: the poor in Spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, peacemakers, those who are persecuted for their Christian faith. We can add from the rest of Jesus’ ministry: sinners who are forgiven, handicapped who are healed, the rejected who are received, the cursed who are blessed, the unclean who are purified, the salt of the earth, the light of the world. That’s our family. They are all around us. It’s reunion day for Christians.

Some say that the Beatitudes should be read as Jesus' manifesto for transformation in the community he has just begun. They reveal what the new community will look like. The Beatitudes address those who experience various kinds of oppression as well as those who have been targeted because of their pursuit of righteousness. They promise blessings to each of these oppressed groups.

The Beatitudes offer a promise of liberation to those at the margins of our society. They also invite and require anyone and everyone with privilege and power to participate in the process of making the promised liberation a reality.

In the midst of personal anxieties that you or those you love may experience, let us pray for peace, healing and light. May this Sunday remind you that today and everyday is a family reunion of sinners and saints in the family of Christ. Remember your baptism and look for the joy in this family reunion where God holds all the power. Sainly sinners or sinful saints? Yes... by the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. ***A brief silence.*** Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. We pray for peace in such a time of passion. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Be with those in need of healing especially **Richard Hose, Kent Anders, Karla Gipe, Lyle Printz and Lyle Reap, Brad Shippert, Ron and JoDee Bardell and Pastor Terrie . We pray for the families suffering with the coronavirus we pray for an end to the virus with safe vaccinations and treatments.**

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year and beyond. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of Offering** Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Please bless all who remember your church and the ministries that continue even when we must be separated from one another. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding your world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray as Jesus taught**

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.

**Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet where Christ gives himself as food and drink

**Holy Communion Together**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of your calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we might delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Take your bread/wafer	The body of Christ given for you
Take you juice/wine	The blood of Christ given for you

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**