

~A Celebration for All Saint' Day~



If multiple people are participating, one may serve as leader, reading the light faced type, the rest reading the bold faced type.

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

People: **Amen.**

HYMN ~ LSB 677, vss 1 & 4 (to be read or sung)

“For All the Saints”

*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!*

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

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical Body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Revelation 7:2–17

*(Saints around God’s throne know eternal salvation
after having endured persecution.)*

² Then 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,

³ saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

- ⁵ 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
⁶ 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
⁷ 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
⁸ 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹ After 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, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And 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, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴ I 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.
¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
¹⁷ For 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.”

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

Verses 5-8: this is best understood as a metaphorical way of saying all the fullness of all God's people, told in the picture of the fullness of all the tribes of Israel. How many tribes do you see listed?

Verses 9 and following, the same crowd is described, but this time as being too many to count.

What peoples are included in verse 9? Do you feel included?

Notice all falling in praise of God, verses 10-12.

Look at verses 16-17: do you recognize any of these phrases from the Old Testament? Some great promises here! Where will they ultimately be fulfilled?

This is promised to you and all who believe in Jesus through His blood shed for us!

EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:1–3

(We are called God's children now through His love.)

3 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.

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

Verse 1: What great status is conferred on us? This is stated 3 times!

Notice it begins in the Father's love, not in anything we do or say. He sent His Son to make this a reality.

What future hope is held out in verse 2? Consider your body and what that means for you. Wow!

On this All Saints Day we think about Christians who have gone before us. How does this passage help you in thinking about them? How are they doing right now? What hope is here for you?

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1–12

(Jesus' followers are blessed now because of His sure promises.)

5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

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.*

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

The word behind "blessed" here is different from the usual word, stressing the happy condition of the one blessed rather than the action of God that caused the happy condition. 9 times it is said.

Each time the word is said over people hurting or giving in some way – in a position of disadvantage. What follows?

Which is your favorite beatitude right now?

We can think about the saints (those made righteous by Jesus) both living and departed as we read these words. What does this say about them? What can you learn from those saints?

THE NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYERS

Thanks to God for saints who have gone before us, the gift of salvation to them, for the ways their lives have blessed us;

Help us to cling to the faith to the end and to be a good influence on others;

An end to this pandemic;

God to accomplish His good purposes through this pandemic, leading many to trust in Him;

Protection and strength for our healthcare workers;

Help for the sick;

Help for those seeking employment;

God's wisdom and guidance for our leaders;

God's hand guiding our elections;

Relief and deliverance for those suffering from natural disasters;

and any other needs of which you are aware – including names listed in the announcements,

especially... *Jim Reynolds...Lisa Hinkelman...Pastor Bill Gohl...Sharon...Dick Fouse...Bob Fouse...Jane Langle...Keith Neely...Margaret McIntosh...Joyce Kerrigan...Mary Gordon...Joyce Gordon...Andrea Lee...Aaron Lee, III...Parker Holman...Lethea Gordon...Singleton Family...Knowle Family...Howell Family...Partlow Family...Lancaster Family...Neely Family...Family & Friends of Mary Lusco †...Family & Friends of Peg Pilquist †.*

Let us remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise and thanksgiving forever. God gave new life to them through Holy Baptism, nourished them in the company of His people at His Holy Table, and in His mercy summoned them to His eternal presence so that they continue to serve Him forever.

†

Edward "Ted" Kautsch, Jr.

Charles Eberwein

Margaret G. Brocato
Mary Lusco

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, O Lord, those relatives, friends, and fellow members of this congregation who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promise that where You are, there Your servants shall be also.

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. (Psalm 103:1)

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve us.
Amen.



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