

Sunday, November 1, 2020
All Saints Sunday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS *To the glory of God in loving memory of Roger Anderson.*

Gay Anderson

PRELUDE

“A Festal Fanfare”
Sharon Gray, organ

J.S. Bach

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P *In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

C Amen!

P *Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.*

P *We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.*

C Amen!

(handbell is rung three times)

REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS

“For All the Saints”

ELW 423

vs. 1-2

**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!**

P *For this assembly, for all who have shared
their lives and faith among us,
for all who have done good works in this congregation,
let us pray to the Lord.*

G Lord, have mercy.

P *For those who teach and those who learn,
for those who serve and share the gospel,
for those who are still to come,
that faithfulness and service may abound,
let us pray to the Lord.*

G Lord, have mercy.

P *For deliverance in the time of affliction,
wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.*

G Lord, have mercy.

P *Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints,
let us commend ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our Lord.*

G To you, O Lord.

P *Let us pray. O God, remember your church throughout the world. Make all its members
grow in love for you and for one another. As you have received our sisters and brothers
who have gone to their rest in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life, bring us at last
with them into the light of your presence, that in union with all your saints we may give
you glory forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

G Amen!

"For All the Saints"

vs. 6-7

ELW 423

**But then 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!**

(handbell is rung three times)

P *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

*Looking to Jesus
and surrounded by the cloud of witnesses,
may we live forgiven,
running the race God has set before us
both now and to eternity,
in the name of the Father, and of ~~the~~ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

C **Amen!**

GREETING

P *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

C **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

pg. 140

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

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, and blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** *Almighty God,*
G 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!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“At the River”
David Bezona, tenor

arr. Aaron Copland

FIRST READING – Ann Newman, 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.

⁹After 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. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And 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, ¹²singing,

“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, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁵For 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.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
¹⁷for 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.”

Reflection

This beautiful vision comes from John the writer of Revelations. In the text immediately before this, John has seen the people of the tribes of Israel who have been “sealed,” that is, marked with their baptism, who number one hundred forty-four thousand (which is 12,000 x 12). (See Revelation 7:1-8) Now he looks, and what does he see? (verse 9) Where is this great multitude from? What are they doing? What are they saying/singing/shouting? (verse 10) Who else is there with them? (verse 11) What are they singing? (verse 12) If this sounds familiar to you, we sing it when we sing “This Is the Feast.” Now one of the elders teaches John, beginning with a question. (verse 13) The elder answers his own question. Who does he say makes up the multitude? (verse 14) What is the grace they have been given, after going through their “great ordeal”? (verse 15) How do we know they are safe from any harm? (verses 15-17) How do you respond to this vision? I will tell you what happens to me—I have tears when I think of how God loves all those who have been through the great ordeal (which I think for most of us is our life!). I am thankful and overwhelmed by the love of God which comes to us. What do you think? What do you feel?

Psalm 34:1-10, 22– read together with David Bezona

¹I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
²I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.
³Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;
let us exalt God’s name together.
⁴I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.
⁵Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
⁶I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.
⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!
⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
¹⁰The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

Reflection

The psalm text for today is selected verses from Psalm 34, but I would encourage you to read/pray the whole psalm. The psalm begins with the psalmist's vow to "bless the Lord at all times." What does it mean to bless the Lord? (verses 1-3) Why does the psalmist bless the Lord? (verse 4) What happens to us when we "look upon the Lord"? (verse 5) Again, why do we bless the Lord? (verses 6-7) When have you tasted the Lord? —I think one time we do is when we receive Holy Communion, when we literally taste Jesus' body and blood. (verse 8) What does the psalmist mean when we are encouraged to "fear the Lord"? (verse 9) What do we need or lack when we fear the Lord? The psalmist compares us to whom? (verse 10) What do lions need that we do not? How do we know that we are redeemed by the Lord? (verse 22) It is not unusual for people to be in terror (verse 4) and to fear punishment (verse 22). What terrifies you? For what do you fear punishment? How does this psalm reassure you, both for you and for those you love?

SECOND READING – Brenda Bass, 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.

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Reflection

How do we know that we have the love of God? (verse 1) Who are we? Who does not recognize us for what we are? Why? If we are God's children now, what will we become? (verse 2) Will it be better? What would it mean to be like God? What will it mean to be pure, like God? Do you think this is something we have to wait for until we have died? Why or why not?

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

"With a Voice of Singing"
Sharmyn Thompson, soprano

Martin Shaw

*With a voice of singing,
declare ye this and let it be heard,
Alleluia.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

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.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, 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 will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

Reflection

One of the reasons I love the Bible is that it proclaims that things that I can see in this world to be impossible are really true. That’s true of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) What we know and believe about the Word of God is that it creates what it declares. So those who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who are merciful (and so on) really are blessed, because of what Jesus says. Even those who are persecuted are blessed. (verses 10-12) How do you think this text describes us in our congregation? How do you think it describes believers throughout the world? How can we rejoice, no matter what?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

“Blest Are They”

ELW 728

**Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.**

Refrain

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill. *Refrain***

**Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God. *Refrain***

Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain*

Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see. *Refrain*

PRAYER SONG

“Open Our Eyes”

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Jim & Juel Pierce

We remember in our prayers

Betty Lenander, Bonnie Hall, Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma Williams, Sonny Thompson, Marlene Hebb, Scott Correa, Savannah Rousch, Lynn Ann Flora, Kira & Kaitlyn Wall, Andy Wilson, Reed Nelson, Nancy Reder, Dorothy Masteller, Phil Lewis, David Bezona, Dee Rasmussen, those affected by wildfires in the western United States, and those affected by storms in the Gulf

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 place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. 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. 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. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Betty, Bonnie, Janet, , Roy, Pamma, Sonny, Marlene, Scott, Savannah, Lynn Ann, Kira & Kaitlyn, Andy, Reed, Nancy, Dorothy, Phil, David, Dee, those affected by wildfires in the western United States, those affected by storms in the Gulf, and for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod. Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. 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: Jim Perry, Linda Briner, Stan Ponce, Loren Gordon, Dorothy Heringer, Wheeler Schmidt, Mary Farris, and Linda Starks. 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!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.*

C **Amen!**

P *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Holy One,*

C **we confess that we are not awake for you.**

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation. Amen!

P *Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through ~~+~~ Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.*

G **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P *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 your saints
you show us the hope of our calling,
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.
And so, with And so, with Jim, Linda, Stan, Dorothy, Loren, Linda, Wheeler, Mary,
and all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P *With all the saints of Africa and Asia, India and the islands, Europe and the Americas,
we praise you, O God, for you create the worlds.*

*With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong,
the famous and the forgotten,*

we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food.

*With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present,
we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations.*

*With all your holy people, those who ministered in the church, those who served the
poor, and all who walked the way of the cross,*

we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth.

With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son:

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.

With Peter and all the martyrs, we honor Christ's death, saying Amen.

C Amen!

P *With Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, we proclaim his resurrection, shouting Amen.*

C Amen!

P *With John and all the theologians and mystics, we look for his returning, pleading Amen.*

C Amen!

P *With the Virgin Mary and all who sang of your greatness,
we pray for the power of the Spirit.*

Visit this gathering, this bread and this cup,

with the presence of the body and blood of Christ.

Form us into a communion of service,

and infuse your earth with the wholeness we seek.

With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal,

lead us to a future we cannot yet see,

and at the end draw all humanity to yourself.

Now with all of the family you saved by your love,

we shout:

**C blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, might,
be to our God forever and ever. Amen!**

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!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P *There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

P *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☩ Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P *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!*

BENEDICTION

P *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!

Soon and very soon
We are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon
We are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon
We are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
We're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there,
We are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there,
We are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there,
We are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
We're goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there,
We are goin' to see the King,
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
We're goin' to see the King!

Soon and very soon
We are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon
We are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon
We are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
We're goin' to see the King!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

-  *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*
-  **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“O, When the Saints Go Marching In”
Stephen Schmidt, piano

arr. Stephen Schmidt

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Drums – Bruce Taylor | Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Rev. Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge
and Carol Bunge

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

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