

ALL SAINTS' DAY (*OBSERVED*)

They're with Us and They're Waiting for Us

November 3 & 4, 2012

AS WE GATHER One of the objections voiced in the Reformation was over what was called "the cult of the saints" (*Augsburg Confession, Article XXI*). The objection wasn't so much over remembering the saints as it was over "to call on the saints or to ask the saints for help." (*Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Concordia Publishing House, 2005, p. 70). Instead, the Reformers taught, "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." The New Testament uses the word "saints" in a different way. Six of St. Paul's letters are addressed to the *saints* who live in various cities of the Roman Empire. These letters reveal both virtue and sinfulness in these congregations. To the apostle, the word *saint* was a synonym for Christian. Many of our congregations have combined these two ideas in recent years, reading the names of those who have died to this life and been born to eternal life in the past twelve months and thanking our God for the testimony of their lives. Today's service includes this commemoration.

WELCOME

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

+ PREPARATION +

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

Behold a host, arrayed in white, Like thousand snow-clad 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'n-ly life, And freed them from their fears.
They now enjoy the Sabbath rest, The heav'n-ly 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!

INVOCATION (Please rise)

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 24:1-6

Pastor: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

People: for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Pastor: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

People: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Pastor: He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

People: Such is the generation of those who seek Him who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us seek the face of God, confessing our sins that we may receive His merciful forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, we confess that, although we are your children by Baptism, we neglect your Word; we turn away from your promise of grace; we harbor sin; we seek to injure ourselves and others. Forgive our sins in the name of Jesus, who became human flesh and blood, without blemish or fault of any kind and yet suffered shame, scorn, and brutal injury---even death upon the cross that we might have eternal life.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, a called and ordained servant of God's Word, announce the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ upon you; and in the stead, and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of God the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

COLLECT

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.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Revelation 7:2-17 (*The multitude in heaven*) Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000. After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 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 spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

EPISTLE 1 John 3:1-3 (*Children of God*) How great is the love the Father has lavished on 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. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

5:00 ANTHEM "There is a Redeemer" Grades 1, 2, & 3
8:00 ANTHEM "Where My Father Lives" Choir

(Please rise)

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12 (*The Beatitudes*) Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #677 "For All the Saints" Stanzas 1-4

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!

SERMON "Children of God Called Saints" 1 John 3:1-3

HYMN OF PRAISE #677 "For All the Saints" Stanzas 5-8

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
 Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
 And hearts are brace 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!

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!

COMMEMORATION OF THE REDEEMED IN CHRIST

Pastor: With God's people throughout the New Testament Church we remember this day all those who have finished the race and have kept the faith. We especially note this day those who have gone to the Church Triumphant during the days of this last year.

A time of silence is observed as the names of all who have entered eternity since last All Saints' Day is read.

<i>Louvenia Potzner 11/13/2011</i>	<i>Robert Edward Flusche 4/30/2012</i>
<i>Daniel John Takala 11/29/2011</i>	<i>Donald Charles Rinka 5/23/2012</i>
<i>Irven L. Lipke 2/11/2012</i>	<i>Esther Schmidt 6/29/2012</i>
<i>Darlene Plumley 2/21/2012</i>	<i>Dorothy Edwarda Wallschlaeger 7/5/2012</i>
<i>Helena Mathilda DeRoo 3/13/2012</i>	<i>Donald Fredrick Schoessow 7/26/2012</i>
<i>Beulah Ethelyn Rebernik 3/30/2012</i>	<i>Charles H. Elmer 8/5/2012</i>
<i>Elfrieda A. Riechelt 4/12/2012</i>	<i>Donald John Ernst 9/4/2012</i>
<i>Sheila Verdone 4/26/2012</i>	<i>Florence Grace Chase 9/9/2012</i>

Pastor: Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving those who loved and served you in your Church on earth and who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED (*inside back cover of the hymnal*)
(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.

(Please rise)

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord our God, who raised Jesus from the dead. For all God's chosen people whom He has knit together in the one mystical body of His Son, that He would give His whole Church in heaven and on earth His light and His peace, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, that they may die to sin and rise to newness of life day by day, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who are nourished this day by the holy body and blood of God's Son, that they may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at His heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all ministers of the Gospel and for the congregations committed to their care, that they may proclaim the comfort of Christ's sacrifice and the joy of His resurrection to all who grieve their sin and mourn their dead, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all in authority over us, and especially all who work to bring peace and justice, that God would supply them with His blessing that they may be inclined to His will and walk according to His commandments, and for the upcoming election, that God grant wisdom to our voters and courage and competence to those we elect, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who have lost possessions and experienced injury or the death of loved ones in the recent devastating storms, that God would comfort and sustain them in this time of trial and that they would receive support for every need of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who travel, for those in need, for the sick and injured including, Ruth, Jerry, Dee, Rylee, Gil, Robin, Nancy, Woody, Sarah, Gerald & Joe; for all who mourn, that God's great mercy may relieve and comfort each, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all those who continue to remember and love departed family and friends who have gone before us in faith, especially Kathy and Marion that God would ultimately bring us with them to the feast that never ends, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who are celebrating God's blessings, especially Henry and Eleanor, that we would all rejoice with them in God's abundant goodness, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, O Lord, and bring us at last to the joy of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

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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)

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 #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast- Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN #673 "Jerusalem, My Happy Home"

Jerusalem, my happy home, When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?

O happy harbor of the saints, O sweet and pleasant soil!
In thee no sorrow may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.

Thy gardens and thy gallant walks Continually are green;
There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs As no-where else are seen.

There trees forevermore bear fruit And evermore do spring;
There evermore the angels swell And evermore do sing.

Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below Will join the glorious band.

O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore With all Thy saints above.

HYMN #680 "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluia angels raise
Thine the ever-lasting head Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 #725 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Children of the heav'n-ly 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.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Debbie Ulbing, Bob Reynolds, Marty Osell
Acolytes	Erynn Biedenbender, Jonathan Burkee, Jonathan Chang
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke
Teachers (Grades 1, 2 & 3)	Sue Graf, Barb Heimsoth, Jane Jahnke
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller