

MESSIAH LUTHERAN

415 S. 18th St.
Aurora NE 68818
www.messiahaurora.org

All Saints Sunday November 1, 2020

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

READING

Hebrews 11:8, 20-22, 24-25, 31, 32-40, 12:1-2a

GATHERING SONG

For All the Saints

ELW 422, vs. 1-3

1 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!

2 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!

3 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: 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!

P: Let us pray..

P: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

C: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses...

P: Patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets and psalmists, disciples and evangelists, mar-

tyrs and saints.

C: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live, who followed, obeyed, adored you – our grateful hymn we sing.

P: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

C: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses...

P: Loved ones now resting in you, who guided us, nurtured and cared for us; ancestors who worked and traveled, lived and died that we might be who we are, where we are – your precious children in this community of believers.

C: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die, who counted you their great reward – accept our thankful cry.

P: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

C: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses...

P: Family members and members of this congregation; fellow believers in every country, every denomination; friends who help, guide and uplift us – children of your family, sheep of your fold, saints of your redeeming.

C: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For this, your name we bless, and humbly pray anew, that we like them in holiness may live and die in you.

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,

C: and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

P: looking to Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

C: Amen

For All the Saints

ELW 422, vs. 5-7

5 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;

sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 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!

7 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!

HONORING THE SAINTS

Naming the Honored Dead

Marcia Bernell Grecekel Friedrichsen	5-7-1935—12-29-2019
Terry Lee Addison	5-17-1960—11-26-2019
Janice Emma Thomas	5-17-1940 — 4-24-2020
Harry James Thomas	6-27-1924 — 5-6-2020
Deryl Dean Danielson	10-30-1937 — 5-29-2020
Etta 'Jo' M. Fassnacht	6-3-1923 — 9-4-2020
Harold E. Junker	4-10-1943 — 10-3-2020

Naming the Earthly Saints

Our Brothers & Sisters in Christs Church on Earth

*GREETING

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

Revelation 7:9-17

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.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:1-10, 22

- 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.

SECOND READING:

1 John 3:1-3

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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW 656

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;

our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

***APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

***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.

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. 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 (*especially*). 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 (*here the names of those who have died in the previous year may be read*). 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.

BLESSING OF LWR QUILTS AND SCHOOL/HEALTH KITS

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heave, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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 come
In the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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.

HOLY COMMUNION

***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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423, vs. 1, 3 & 4

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river

that flows by the throne of God.

***BLESSING**

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.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.