

THE LORD'S DAY 11:00 A.M. NOVEMBER 5, 2023
ALL SAINTS DAY (OBSERVED)
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ

"A great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages" cry out, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne" (Rev. 7:9–10). Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, "shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall "serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:15). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward to our eternal home, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).

Preservice Music/Ringing of the Bell/Welcome

INVOCATION AND PSALM *Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; Revelation 7:14*

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

Congregation: Amen

R These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

C They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

R In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

**C For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.**

R Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SONG *"To Him Who Sits on the Throne"*

**To Him who sits on the throne and unto the Lamb,
To Him who sits on the throne and unto the Lamb
Be blessing and honor and glory and power forever,
Be blessing and honor and glory and power forever.**

Repeat.

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THE FIRST READING

Revelation 7:9-17

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, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 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, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

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

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:1-3

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. 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. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Reader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

"White as Snow"

White as snow, white as snow, though my sins were as scarlet

Lord, I know, Lord, I know, that I'm clean and forgiven.

**Through the power of Your blood,
Through the wonder of Your love
Through faith in You I know
That I can be, white as snow,**

Repeat.

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(Stand)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1–12

P The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P This is the gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P O Lord God, when I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, which you have set in place,

C What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? *Psalm 8*

P Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Hear my voice.

C If you should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; that You may be feared.”

Psalm 130:2-4

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C 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. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Sit

CHILDREN'S TALK

SERMON HYMN For all the Saints, LSB 677

- 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, 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!
- 4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 7 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!
- 8 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!

SERMON: What Will Heaven Be Like?

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

Prayers

(Stand)

In the prayers we thank the Lord for the lives of members of this congregation who have gone before us to the kingdom of heaven in the past year. A bell will toll once for each of these saints who are now at peace and resting with our Lord and theirs. Their date of entrance to the heavenly kingdom is given.

Bill (George) Fritcher	December 1
Pamela Kay (Berg) Kepley	February 5
Charlott Ann (Waggener) Brauer	February 28
Wayne Lamar Franzen	March 17
Carol Ann (Stumpf) Sheppard	May 4
Dale Stuemke	August 31

Lord, in Your mercy...hear our prayer.

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.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His favor upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen

THE CLOSING SONG OF PRAISE

"The Name of the Lord" (Blessed be the Name of the Lord)

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be the name of the Lord most high

(Repeat)

Glory to the name of the Lord

Glory to the name of the Lord

Glory to the name of the Lord most high

(Repeat)

The name of the Lord is a strong tower

The righteous run into it and they are saved

The name of the Lord is a strong tower

The righteous run into it and they are saved

Holy is the name of the Lord

Holy is the name of the Lord

Holy is the name of the Lord most high

(Repeat)

Clinton Utterbach CCLI Song # 265239