

**Sunday, November 5, 2023, 9:00am**

***Blessed Are They***

**All Saints Sunday**

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

*Today is bittersweet.*

*Bitter, because some of us will be remembering someone we love who died, and are still grieving. Yet sweet, because that loved one was also loved by God, redeemed by Jesus, and lives at home with Jesus which He went ahead to prepare.*

## **Prelude**

### **#982, Blest Are They**

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

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

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

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

**4 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**

**5 Blest are you who suffer hate, All because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; Shine for all to see. Refrain**

Text: David Haas, 1957

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

**C: Amen.**

**P:** God, on this All Saints' Day, we gather in Your name to remember and rejoice.

**C: We remember the ones we love, ones loved also by You.**

**P:** We remember how You embraced them, showed them grace, and filled them with faith.

**C: We remember with heavy, yet thankful, hearts.**

**P:** We rejoice in the resurrection life promised in, and through, Jesus.

**C: We rejoice that Jesus has overcome death, forever.**

**P:** We rejoice that You are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who will never leave us nor forsake us.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** In Baptism, God welcomes us into the family of Jesus and embraces us with His love. Welcomed and embraced, we are free to confess our sins, trusting the power of Jesus to lead us to newness of life.

**C: I confess, good Lord, that I have sinned against You and my neighbors in thought, word, and deed. I have hungered and thirsted for unworthy things. My heart is not right within me. Forgive me, O God, for the sake of Jesus.**

**P:** Today we hear these beautiful words from John, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are." As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: Lord God, You sustained those who have gone before us in faith, You showed them grace, and in their lives You have shown us examples of good works that are the fruit of faith in Christ. So sustain us in faith and grace, that we bear the fruit of faith with perseverance and joy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

## **Children's Time**

### **Revelation 7:9–17**

L: 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,

**C: Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

L: 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,

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

L: Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,

**C: Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?**

L: I said to him,

**C: Sir, you know.**

L: And he said to me,

**C: 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.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **1 John 3:1–3**

L: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God,

**C: and so we are.**

L: The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved,

**C: 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.**

L: And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as he is pure.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Alleluia.

**C: Alleluia.**

P: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

**C: let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.**

P: Alleluia.

**C: Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: 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,

**C: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

P: Blessed are those who mourn,

**C: for they shall be comforted**

P: Blessed are the meek,

**C: for they shall inherit the earth.**

P: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**C: for they shall be satisfied**

P: Blessed are the merciful,

**C: for they shall receive mercy.**

P: Blessed are the pure in heart,

**C: for they shall see God.**

P: Blessed are the peacemakers,

**C: for they shall be called sons of God.**

P: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

**C: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

P: Blessed are you when others attack 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.**

**#677, Verses 1-4, For All the Saints**

**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!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **The Sermon**                      *Saints In That Number*

### **#677, Verses 5-8, For All the Saints**

**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!

## **The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**

### **Dedication of Lent Paraments:**

The new Lent Paraments are dedicated to the glory of God in loving memory of  
Imogene Canan. The new Altar Fair Linen will also be dedicated to the glory of God.

### **The Prayers of His Children**

**P:** Lord, in Your mercy.            **C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

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

**C:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give  
thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our  
Lord, who blessed those who have gone before us, giving His life for theirs and rising in  
triumph over death. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of  
heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Words of our Lord**

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

**C: 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.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

### ***#676, Behold a Host, Arrayed in White***

**1 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.**

**2 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'nly life, And freed them from their fears. They now enjoy the Sabbath rest, The heav'nly banquet of the blest; The Lamb, their Lord, At festive board Himself is host and guest.**

**3 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!**

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Text: Public domain

### ***#725, Children of the Heavenly Father***

**1 Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather; Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.**

**2 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.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever; Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**4 Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh; His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958  
Text: Public domain

### ***#680, Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise***

**1 Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise Thine the everlasting 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 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.**

**4 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.**

**5 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.**

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009  
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**P: Together, we pray,**

**C: As You, Lord Jesus, took bread and wine, gave thanks, blessed them, and gave  
it for all to eat and drink, so fill us with the Holy Spirit that we receive the gifts You  
give with thanks, use our gifts to bless the world, share our bounty for the sake of  
Your kingdom, and give our lives in service to You, Amen.**

**God's Benediction**

### ***#813, Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng***

**1 Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing; Your festal banner wave on high,**

**The cross of Christ your king. Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**2 With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise, Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,**

**The psalms of ancient days. Refrain**

**3 With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,**

**True rapture, noblest mirth. Refrain**

**4 Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song, Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng. Refrain**

**5 Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array, As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. Refrain**

**6 At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest; The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. Refrain**

**7 Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore: The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. Refrain**

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.

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**Ministry Announcements**

*Postlude*