

November 7, 2021
All Saints Sunday



ST. STEPHEN
Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Congregation is invited to stand as able
Please be aware that video cameras are in use during our hybrid (combined) Worship Service and that images are being shared with the online participants.

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Our Mission

We respond to Christ's love by feeding those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

Prelude

“ ”

Gathering

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

***Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit .

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ☩ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Hymn#873, vs. 3,5,6

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*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

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

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.

***Apostolic Greeting**

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

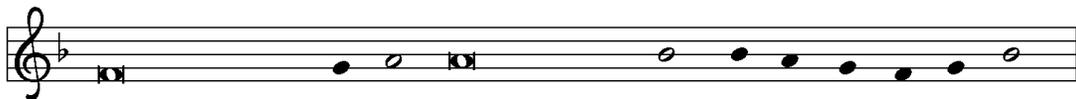
***Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



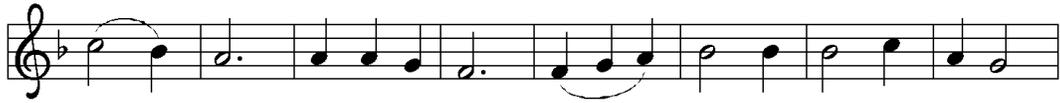
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

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.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 25th chapter.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 24

¹The earth is the LORD's and all ¹ that is in it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

²**For the LORD has founded it up- ¹ on the seas
and established it up- ¹ on the rivers.**

³Who may ascend the mountain ¹ of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's ¹ holy place?

⁴**Those of innocent hands and puri- ¹ ty of heart,
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by ¹ what is false.**

⁵They shall receive blessing ¹ from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of ¹ their salvation.

⁶**Such is the generation of those who seek ¹ you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O ¹ God of Jacob.**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- ¹ lasting doors,
that the King of glory ¹ may come in.

⁸**Who is this ¹ King of glory?**

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- ¹ y in battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- ¹ lasting doors,
that the King of glory ¹ may come in.

¹⁰**Who is this ¹ King of glory?**

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the ¹ King of glory.

The Second Lesson

Revelation 21:1-6a

Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.

A reading from the book of Revelation, the 21st chapter.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;

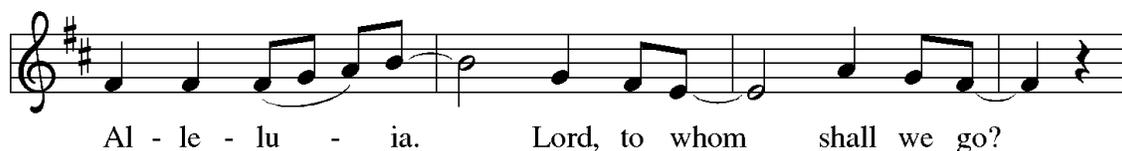
⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ^{6a}Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel Reading**

John 11:32-44

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

A reading from the Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter. **Glory to You O Lord.**

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev Matthew Best

Hymn of the Day

“For All Your Saints, O Lord ”

Hymn#427 vs. 1-4

- 1 For all your saints, O Lord,
who strove in you to live,
who followed you, obeyed, adored,
our grateful hymn receive.
- 2 For all your saints, O Lord,
who strove in you to die,
who counted you their great reward,
accept our thankful cry.
- 3 They all in life and death,
with you, their Lord, in view,
learned from your Holy Spirit's breath
to suffer and to do.
- 4 For this, your name we bless
and humbly pray anew
that we like them in holiness
may live and die in you.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776-1848, alt.

*Prayers of Intercession

Congregational response after each petition:

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Loving God, on this All Saints Sunday, we give thanks for the gift of your son Jesus Christ who is our ultimate role model and savior. Through him, we believe in life, death and resurrection. We are thankful for all Christian churches, missionaries, and all Christians across the world sharing and spreading Jesus' gospel message. We celebrate all saints who have gone before us. And we ask you to please direct our steps, our actions, and our words, so that we too may become saints with you in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we pray for the earth, your creation, and every living thing. We are reminded through today's readings that you provide all we need. There is plenty for all in your incredible creation. Help us to share the abundance with others, and to take care of the earth and all its wonders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, we pray for peace and justice in the world. Death often causes sorrow or fear. God, please wipe away all tears and remove all fear associated with death, and replace it with your loving assurance that there is life with you and all the saints in heaven, following death. Use us as instruments of your peace, and carriers of this incredibly hopeful message. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, we pray for the poor, the oppressed, the sick, lonely, and those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Give us eyes to see them, hands to help them, and may we share the

good news with them. Take away the sting of death and replace it with joy at the possibility of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, we pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We pray for all families affected by COVID-19, all families hurt by opioid and other addictions, all families struggling with job losses, cancer and other diseases, natural disasters, gun violence and other tragedies. We pray that you bring beauty out of chaos, healing out of hurting. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for each and every disciple at St. Stephen. Bind us together and unite us in mission. We rejoice and give thanks for all the faithful caring saints of St. Stephen through the years. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Remembering the Saints

In memory of those who died within the past year:

Helen Bowers Dec 12, 2020

Judy Read Dec 24, 2020

Chick Denison May 22, 2021

Jeffrey Whelan July 26, 2021

***Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us show a sign of that peace!

***Offering**

The offering, whether in person or through digital means, is an act of worship. Worship, at its core, is a reverent love and devotion accorded to God. We give because God loves us first, and we are called to love God and neighbor as a result. The offering is one way we show our love of God.

To assist you in this act of worship, there are several ways to make your offering: Go to www.StStephenLC.org and scroll to the bottom of the page, and click **DONATE.**

Text your offering dollar amount to 717-685-6947. Text "help" for options.

Use Engage from your smart phone or Internet connected device at <https://engage.suran.com/sslc/> or QR code below:



Set up regular electronic offerings by contacting Kevin, our office manager, at 717-766- 2168, Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm, or by email at office@StStephenLC.org to get set up.

Mail in your check, made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Our address is
30 W. Main St., PO Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072.

The offerings are used to carry out the ministry of the church, to share the Good News, to provide pastoral care, to worship as a community, and to create an environment where Jesus encounters people and their lives are transformed. All of these things continue to take place. Thank you for your generosity.

***Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. Holy God,
the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

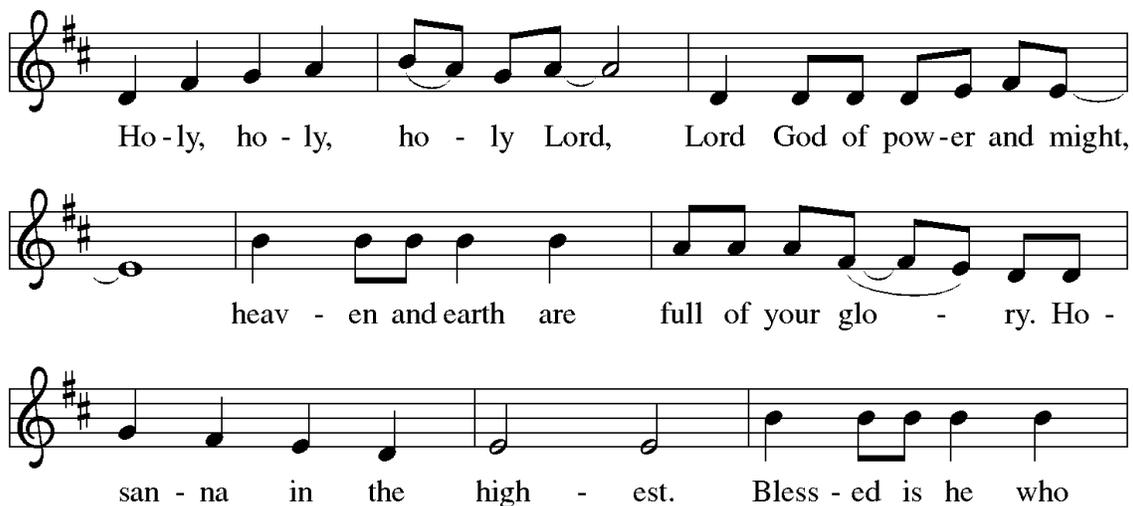
***The Great Thanksgiving**

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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**

A feast of love is offered here, for you and for all the saints.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Body and Blood of Christ given and shed for you

***Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

Sending

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

***Blessing**

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“For All the Saints“

Hymn#422 vs. 1,3,6

- 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!

- 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!

- 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!

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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