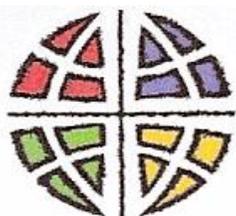




*Service of the Word
All Saints Sunday
November 7, 2021*



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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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins:

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

*Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.*

*Surely, in temples made with hands
God the Most High is not dwelling—
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet God who dwells in heav'n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.*

*Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.*

*Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.*

Through all the passing years, O Lord,

*grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."*

GREETING

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.**

KYRIE

ELW Setting 2, Page 120

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace from above and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **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.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING

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.

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 24

They shall receive blessing from the God of their salvation. (Ps. 24:5)

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

²**For the LORD has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

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

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

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

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

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

⁸**Who is this King of glory?**

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

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

¹⁰**Who is this King of glory?**

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

SECOND READING

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.

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 2, Page 124

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

John 11:32-44

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carl Ballard

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Thanks for Saints

ELW 428

*Give thanks for those whose faith is firm
when all around seems bleak:
on God's good promise they rely,
so while they live and when they die
how forcefully they speak—
the strong, who once were weak!*

*Give thanks for those whose hope is clear,
beyond mere mortal sight:
who seek the city God has planned,
the true, eternal promised land,
and steer on toward that light,
a beacon ever bright.*

*Give thanks for those whose love is pure,
a sparkling precious stone:
they show by what they say and do*

*an inward beauty, warm and true,
for God's concerns they own—
God's love through them is known.*

*Give thanks for saints of ages past
and saints alive today:
though often by this world despised,
their hearts by God are richly prized.
Give thanks that we may say
we share their pilgrim way.*

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.**

THE PRAYERS

A: Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. *(A brief silence)*

A: Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away. Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of protection, watch over those serving in our armed forces. Assure them of your never-failing strength. We pray especially for *Beth & Ryan, Jonathan, Noah, Irene, and Alex*. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way. We pray especially for those we silently lift before you now. *(a brief moment for those names to be shared in prayer)* Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

(Ahren, the Anderson family, Barb & family, Bev, Charles, Cindy, Deb, Gary, Harrison & Sara, Helen & family, Jon, Judy's family, Kris, Lawton, Lizzy, Lori & family, Lynne & Jim, Marge, Mary, Bev & family, Adam & Shani & Ezra, Steve & family, Stacy & Char)

A: God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. We especially lift up to you Presiding Bishop Elizabeth, our Synod Bishop Craig, and Pastor Carl. We ask that you be with their respective staffs as they live out their callings to serve.

As we are called to be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, be with the leaders and the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Jackson. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, 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.

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

For All Your Saints, O Lord

ELW 427

*For all your saints, O Lord,
who strove in you to live,
who followed you, obeyed, adored,
our grateful hymn receive.*

For all your saints, O Lord,

*who strove in you to die,
who counted you their great reward,
accept our thankful cry.*

*They all in life and death,
with you, their Lord, in view,
learned from your Holy Spirit's breath
to suffer and to do.*

*For this, your name we bless
and humbly pray anew
that we like them in holiness
may live and die in you.*

*To God, the Father, Son,
and Spirit, ever blest,
the One in Three, the Three in One,
be endless praise addressed.*

DISMISSAL

A: Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Pastor Carl's office hours are by appointment.