

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

*Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.*

*Matthew 5:8, NRSV*



**All Saints Day**

**November 1, 2020**



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany      ◆ Immanuel      ◆ Lunder      ◆ Silver Lake      ◆ Winnebago

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**Reformation Sunday**

**November 1, 2020**

## FOR ALL THE SAINTS

We joyfully welcome all who have gathered here this day to celebrate God in our lives. This morning we lift-up the vision of God's Kingdom – both here on earth and the one promised to come. We remember those who have been part of the fellowship of believers on earth and now make up the heavenly host.

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.*

*(\* Stand as you are able)*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

## ✠ **GATHERING** ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### \***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### \***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Jesus, teacher and Lord, when we hear your criticisms of the behavior of the scribes and the Pharisees and people of his day, we wonder what has changed. People still place unwarranted burdens on others, still demand preferential treatment, still abuse positions of leadership. We are ashamed to confess that this does not only happen in society at large, it happens also within the church.

1

When we take part in practices which inflate our egos at the expense of others.

**Jesus, forgive us,**

When we parade our piety and expect favored treatment, forgetting that you emptied yourself of power so that you could be the servant and Savior of all,

**Jesus, forgive us**

When we care more for impressive outward appearances rather than inner dispositions shaped by tolerance and love,

**Jesus, forgive us.**

If our behavior is ever experienced or perceived as hypocritical,

**Jesus, forgive us**

Renew and refresh us with your gentle and selfless Spirit, Lord, so that we know what it is to be your followers not only in name, but in reality.

**Amen**

## **EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Hear the good news: God has forgiven us all our sins, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. This God set aside, nailing it to the cross. In Jesus Christ, therefore, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **\*OPENING SONG**

*“For All the Saints” vss. 1-3*

*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!*

*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!*

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,  
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### **\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE**

### **\*KYRIE**

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.**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*“Glory to God...”*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.*

## **\*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***

*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.*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Revelation 7:9-17**

*The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.*

<sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup>And 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, <sup>12</sup>singing,

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

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I 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.

<sup>15</sup>For 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.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for 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."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

### **1 John 3:1-3**

*A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.*

<sup>1</sup>See 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. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

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

## \*GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 5:1-12**

*In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

Harlan Nyhus

## \*SONG OF THE DAY

*"Blest Are They"*

*Blest are they, the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of God.*

*Blest are they, full of sorrow;  
they shall be consoled.*

*Refrain Rejoice and be glad!*

*Blessed are you, holy are you.*

*Rejoice and be glad!*

*Yours is the kingdom of God!*

*Blest are they, the lowly ones;  
they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blest are they who hunger and thirst;  
they shall have their fill. Refrain*

*Blest are they who show mercy;  
mercy shall be theirs.*

*Blest are they, the pure of heart;  
they shall see God. Refrain*

*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*

*Blest are you who suffer hate,  
all because of me.  
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom;  
shine for all to see. Refrain*

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

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**\*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.**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

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.

*We remember all you saints, including the newly baptized: Eloise Bakken, Hudson Determann, Kace Faber, Hannah Nelson, Nora Johnson, Owen Kreuger, Emersyn Miller, Brecken Storby, Huxen Storby. And those who have recently died: Mark Bernau, Marvin Bernau, Barbara Bondari, Evelyn Budlong, Paul Christianson, Grace Dahlby, Bernard Flugum, Jeff Gentz, Jim Iverson, Mayvis Johnson, Norman Johnson, Darlene Jorth, Herbert Mehus, Pastor Merlin Norris, Duane Peterson, Dorothy Colleen Rogness, Verna Smeby, Jerome Solland, Darla Thorson.*

...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**\*RINGING OF THE BELL**

**\*SENDING SONG** “For All the Saints” vss. 4-7

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*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!*

*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!*

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897

**\*THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**✠ THANKSGIVING ✠**

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING**

*Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) (electronic giving).*

**Postlude**



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# Blessed Are You

When Jesus sits on the mountain and begins his long sermon in Matthew's gospel, he begins with these statements of blessing. Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and so on. Jesus speaks of the positive outcomes of these conditions: they will be comforted, they will inherit the earth, they will be filled. "Blessed are you now," Jesus is saying, as well as "Blessed you will be."

God's promises are for today as much as they are for after we die. We trust that baptized into a death like Jesus' death, we are also baptized into a resurrection like Jesus' resurrection. In baptism we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Proclaimed on a mountain or in the valleys that can come in daily life, our identity as blessed, baptized saints moves us to live in ways that give thanks to God for God's many gifts and blessings.

All Saints Day isn't just about remembering those who have died and whose names may be read during worship today. All Saints Day is about all the saints, the ones who have gone before, those living now, and those still to come. Today we remember with thanksgiving our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died within the past year, and we also give thanks for the saints who labor and worship on this side of heaven's gate.

Today we recall and celebrate with those who have gone before us as we gather at the font and the table, where in water and word, wine and bread, God reminds us, "Blessed are you." We are blessed, and so we live in ways that manifest this blessing for and toward others.