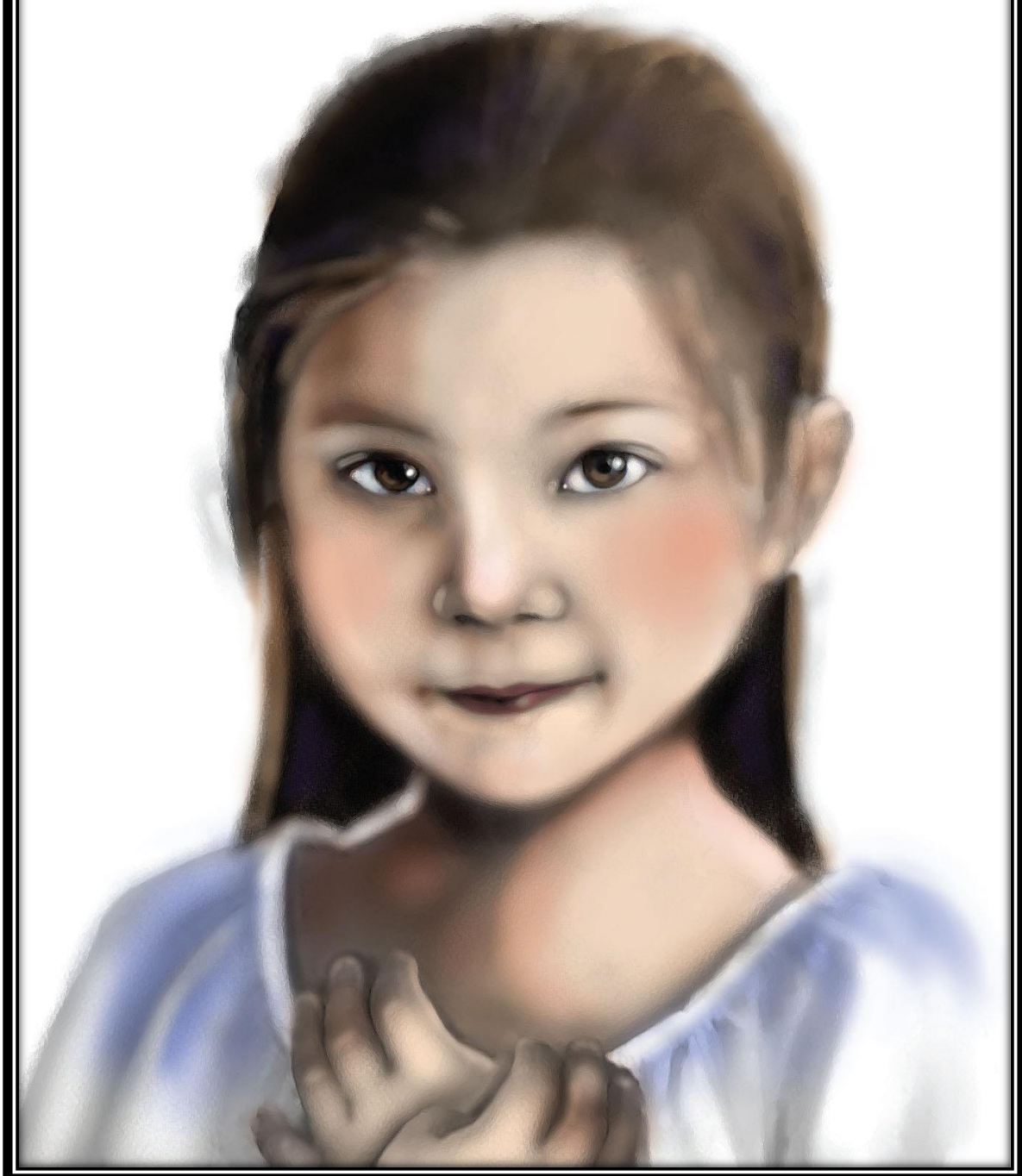


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

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

Matthew 5:8, NRSV



All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023

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

***CONFESSION**

Who is welcome in the presence of God?

Those who do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

God of all power, you are the One who called this world into being and we acknowledge that you have no equal in the extent of your power.

Yet, you welcome us into your presence as people blessed and loved by you.

Such radical love leaves us speechless, but you gave it human form and shape in the person of Jesus, in whom your justice, mercy and humility are made visible.

We give you thanks and praise for blessing our lives in this way, and we pray that this time of worship will be a true expression of our desire to praise and glorify you,

O God, not only in ritual and words, but in lives committed to doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Long before Jesus, the prophet Micah had called on people to demonstrate how their faith made a difference in the world.

If their worship of God was authentic it would lead them to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Merciful God, you call us to live out our faith in ways which honor you and bless our neighbors, and we affirm that worship is an essential part of our faith journey.

We believe that what we do here in worship prepares us for life in the world as disciples of Christ and we know that our discipleship is most effective when we live by your kingdom values of love, justice and mercy.

We confess that too often our lives become so cluttered with personal baggage that we worship you with distracted minds and drifting thoughts.

Forgive us if we worship you with words and actions which do not arise from hearts centered on you;

So that our rituals, words and gestures become trite and emptied of meaning.

Forgive us when concern over our outward appearance of piety is greater than our generosity of spirit;

So that we fail to identify and own the longings of your heart, O God.

Forgive us when we choose to ignore your desire to work with us to create a genuinely human community where justice is done and mercy is truly experienced;

Where oppressed people are set free; and hungry people are fed;

Where homeless people are given shelter and peace is experienced by all.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

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

The wisdom of God is surely this: "that God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

"Blest Are They"

ELW # 728

Leader or All

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . . they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they, who
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they, who
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain
 All

Re - joice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - joice and be glad!

Yours is the king - dom of God!

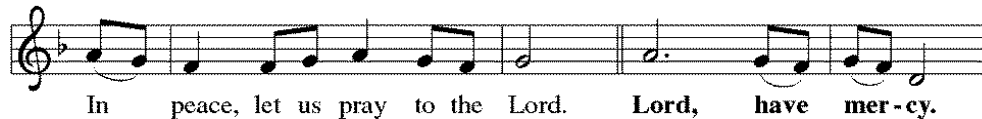
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

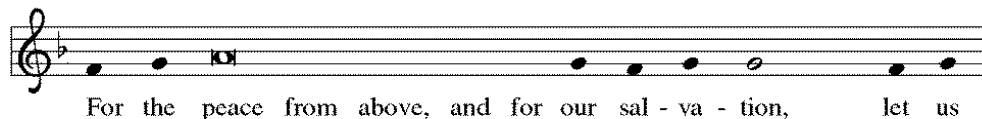
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***KYRIE**



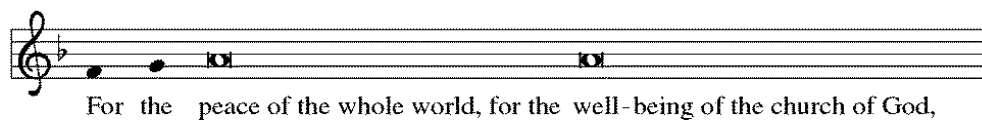
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



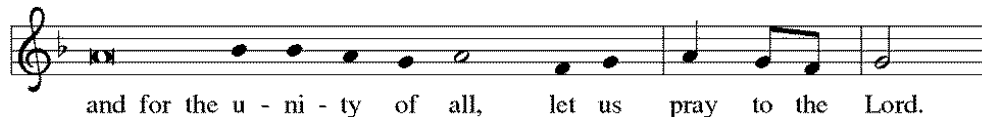
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



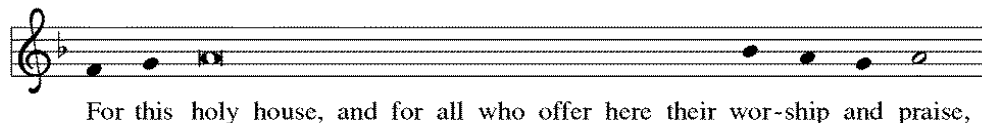
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



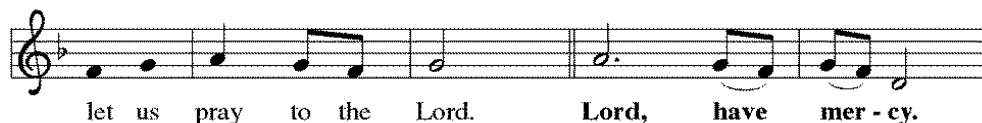
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



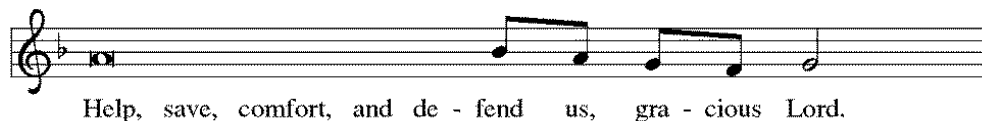
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



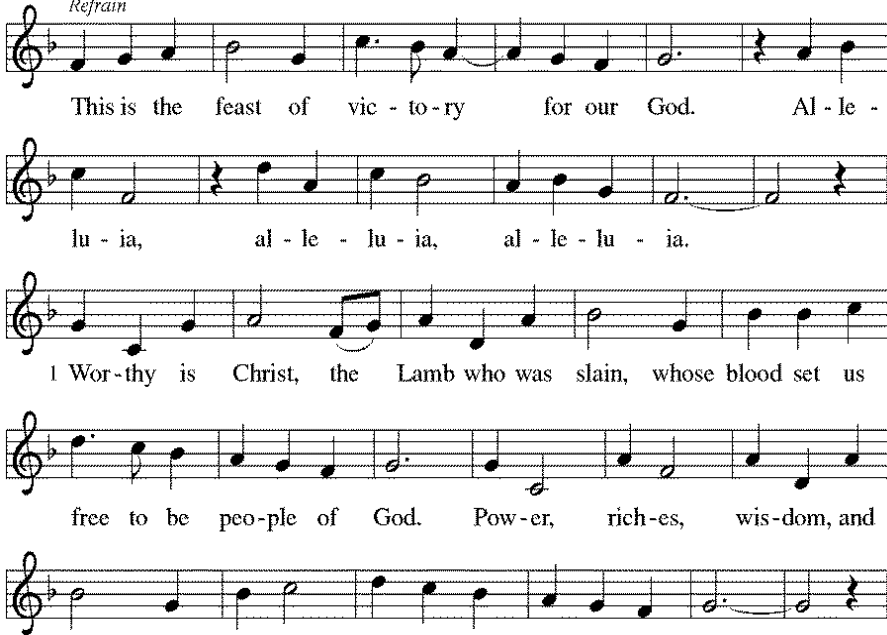
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *"This is the feast..."*

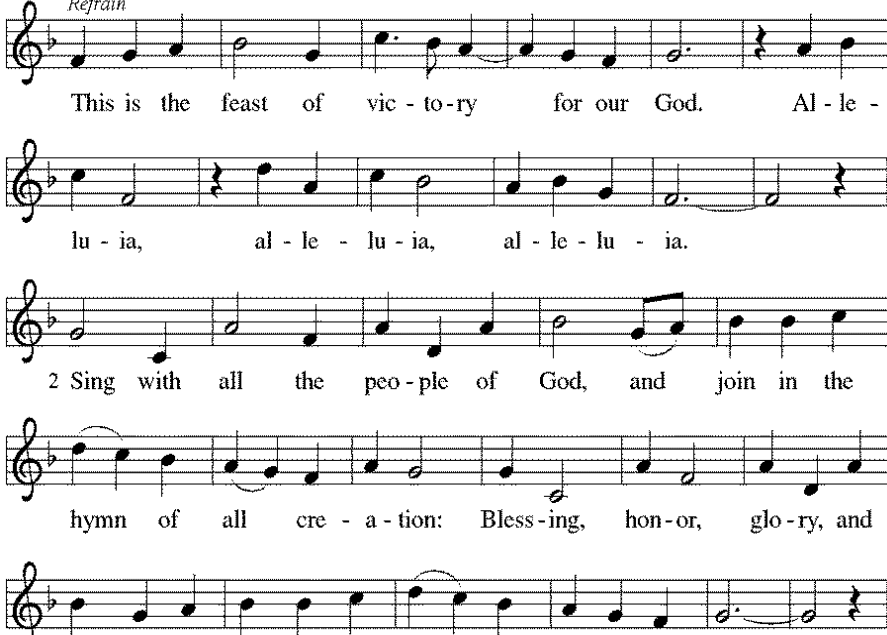
Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

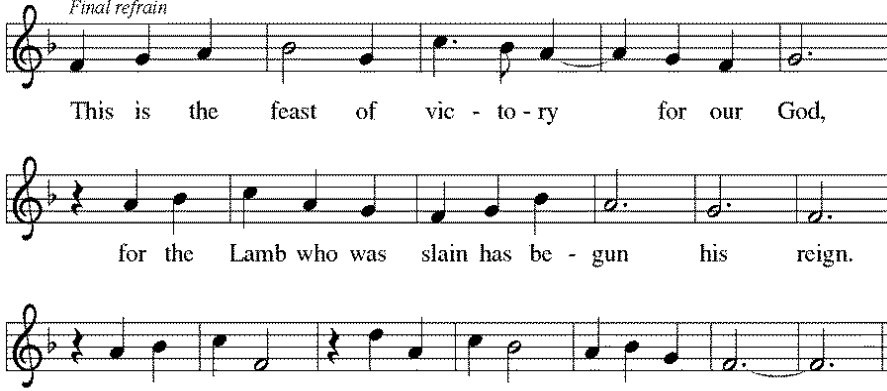
Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***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.

⁹After 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. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

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

¹¹And 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, ¹²singing,

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

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

¹⁵For 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.

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

¹⁷for 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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

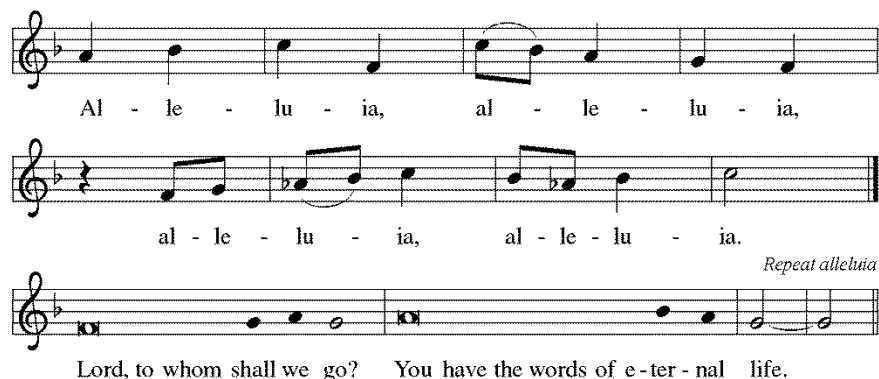
1 John 3:1-3

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.

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And 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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*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.**

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

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice 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

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY

“For All the Saints”

vss. 1-3 # 174

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
you, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Oh, may your 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!*

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

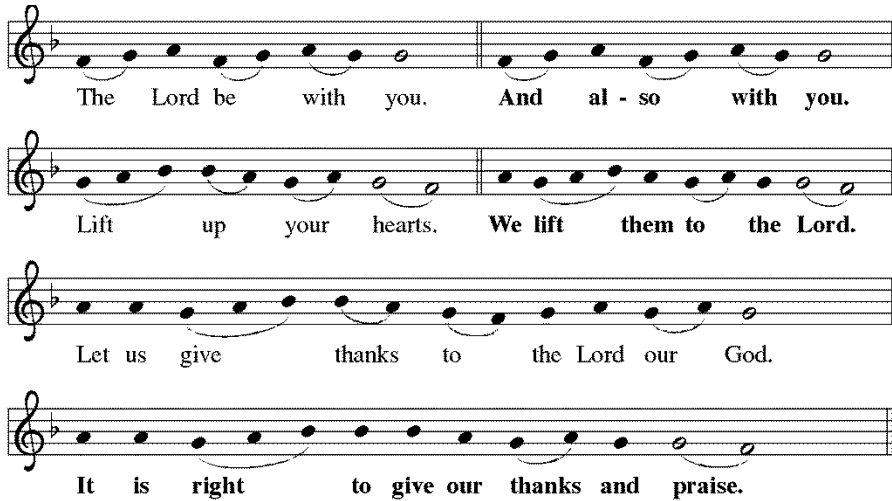
***OFFERTORY SONG**

"Let the Vineyards"

ELW # 184

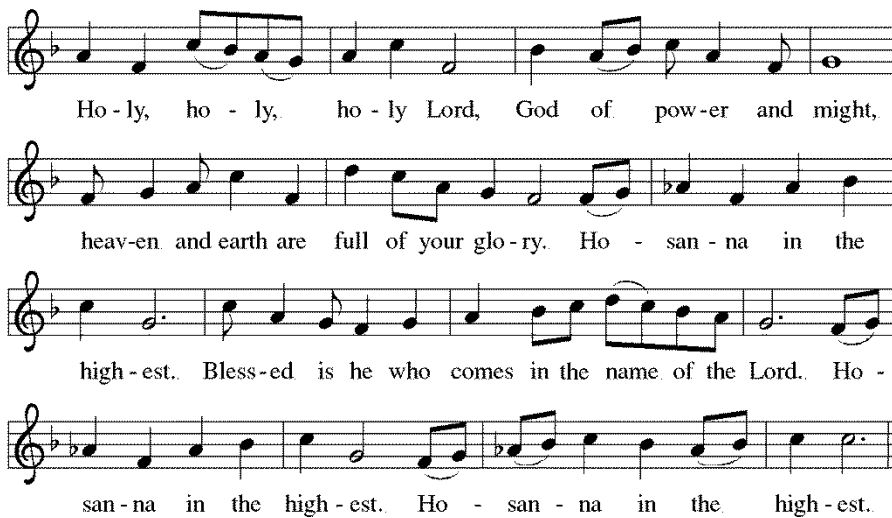
*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

*PREFACE



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

*BLESSING

*THREE-FOLD AMEN

*RINGING OF THE BELL

“For All the Saints”

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*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 warriors comes their 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!*

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

***DISMISSAL**

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

Postlude



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All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023

BELOVED SAINTS

“He must be a real saint!” “She was such a saint!” We say these things about people we know, or have heard of, often in reference to someone who displays great patience or perhaps is extraordinarily kind and generous. It’s not difficult to find such praise at a funeral, for example, as the deceased’s positive influence in the world is remembered. In popular usage, a person earns the title “saint” by doing good works. We think of people such as Saint Francis or Saint Teresa, individuals who were known for being particularly holy or religious. We rarely consider that we ourselves might be saints. After all, most of us haven’t opened orphanages or founded hospitals, given away all our possessions or been imprisoned because of our faith. Even demonstrating exceptional patience toward irritating people or circumstances is beyond most of us on far too many days.

But the scripture readings today make clear that being a saint is not about earning the title. According to the Bible, the “saints” are simply the believers in Christ across time and space. In baptism, our robes have been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). *Saint* is a title given to us by God—not as a reward for a job well done, but as an expression of God’s love for us. The characteristic of a saint is not superhuman perfection but rather faith. Faith that the sorrows we mourn, the injustices we encounter, and the persecution we face will one day be put right through the blood of the Lamb. Faith that recognizes and laments the awful brokenness of the world, and of ourselves, and trusts Christ to forgive our sins, wipe away our tears, and make all things new. So, cling to Christ, dear saint, and rejoice that you are God’s beloved child—*now* (1 John 3:2).