

Holy Communion



Preparation for Worship – “Oh, when the saints go marching in!” Thank you, Jesus, for counting me in that “number” — those saved by your grace and love.

Words of Welcome – Welcome to worship on All Saints’ Day! Today we saints on earth join with the saints in heaven to sing praises around God’s throne.

Sunday, November 1, 2020
All Saints Day
Holy Communion

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are

infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *For All the Saints* (Red Hymnal # 422)

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!

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!

7 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!

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.

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.**

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation.

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.”

Reading 1: Saints of the Bible

The following list of names of saints of the Bible (or a selection from the list) may be read.

For the saints from scripture; Adam, Eve, Mary, Joseph, Abraham, Sarah, Rachel, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, Jacob, Esau, Miriam, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Deborah, Samson, David, Hannah, Samuel, Solomon, Isaiah, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, Peter, James, John, Joanna, Susanna, Priscilla, Mary Magdalene, Nathanael, Timothy, Zacchaeus, Philemon, Onesimus, Lydia, Paul, Simon of Cyrene, Ezekiel, Daniel, Silas, Barnabas, Ruth, Elijah, Esther, Martha, Jeremiah, Luke, Dorcas, Micah, Titus, Timothy, Phoebe, Naomi, Eunice, Lois, the Woman at the Well

A handbell rings once to conclude the reading.

Litany

The following litany may be sung or spoken by a cantor and assembly.

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 the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Behold the Host Arrayed in White* (Red Hymnal # 425)

1 Behold the host arrayed in white
like thousand snow-clad mountains bright,
that stands with palms and sings its psalms
before the throne of light!
These are the saints who kept God's word;
they are the honored of the Lord.
He is their prince who drowned their sins,
so they were cleansed, restored.
They now serve God both day and night;
they sing their songs in endless light.
Their anthems ring when they all sing
with angels shining bright.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

- ¹I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
- ²**I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**
- ³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.
- ⁴**I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.**
- ⁵Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- ⁶**I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**
- ⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.
- ⁸**Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!**
- ⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
- ¹⁰**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**
- ²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from 1 John.

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.

Reading 2: Saints of the Church

The following list of names of saints of the church (or a selection from the list) may be read.

For the saints of Christ's church; Francis of Assisi, Dag Hammarskjöld, Chief Seattle, Bernard of Clairvaux, John Donne, Thomas Aquinas, Hildegard of Bingen, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Elizabeth of Hungary, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John Wesley, Johann Sebastian Bach, Teresa of Avila, Heinrich Schütz, Martin Luther King Jr., Florence Nightingale, Albrecht Dürer, Catherine Winkworth, Elizabeth Fedde, Perpetua and Felicity, Toyohiko Kagawa, Søren Kierkegaard, Birgitta of Sweden, Clara Maas, Augustine of Hippo, Isaac Watts, Julian of Norwich, Catherine of Siena

A handbell rings once to conclude the reading.

Litany

The following litany may be sung or spoken by a cantor and assembly.

For public servants, the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For renewers of the church, whose prophetic voices call us together around the gospel of salvation, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Behold the Host Arrayed in White* (Red Hymnal # 425)

2 On earth their work was not thought wise,
but see them now in heaven's eyes;
before God's throne of precious stone
they shout their vict'ry cries.

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.

For now they have the best at last;
they keep their sweet eternal feast.
At God's right hand our Lord commands;
he is both host and guest.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.”

SERMON

Reading 3: Saints of This Community

Saints from the worshiping community are named. This list will need to be gathered in advance and typically includes those from the local worshiping community who have died in the past year. As the names are read, a choir or soloist softly sings or hums “Behold the host,” gradually becoming softer until all the names are read.

A handbell rings once to conclude the reading.

For the saints of our communities and our families;

Litany

The following litany may be sung or spoken by a cantor and assembly.

For this assembly, for all who have shared their lives and faith among us, for all who have done good works in this congregation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who teach and those who learn, for those who serve and share the gospel, for those who are still to come, that faithfulness and service may abound, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord.

To you, O Lord.

Prayer

Let us pray. O God, remember your church throughout the world. Make all its members grow in love for you and for one another. As you have received our sisters and brothers who have gone to their rest in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life, bring us at last with them into the light of your presence, that in union with all your saints we may give you glory forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Behold the Host Arrayed in White* (Red Hymnal # 425)

3 O blessed saints, now take your rest;
a thousand times shall you be blest
for keeping faith firm unto death
and scorning worldly trust.
For now you live at home with God
and harvest seeds once cast abroad
in tears and sighs. See with new eyes
the pattern in the seed.
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!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod (*especially*). Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year (*here the names of those who have died in the previous year may be read*). In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

DIALOGUE (Red Hymnal p. 152)

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.

PREFACE

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Red Hymnal p. 153)
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

With all the saints of Africa and Asia, India and the islands, Europe and the Americas, we praise you, O God, for you create the worlds.

With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten, we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food.

With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present, we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations.

With all your holy people, those who ministered in the church, those who served the poor, and all who walked the way of the cross, we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth.

With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son:

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.
The body of Christ, given for you.

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.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

With Peter and all the martyrs, we honor Christ's death.
With Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, we proclaim his resurrection.
With John and all the theologians and mystics, we look for his returning.

With the Virgin Mary and all who sang of your greatness, we pray for the power of the Spirit.
Visit this gathering, this bread and this cup, with the presence of the body and blood of Christ.
Form us into a communion of sainted service, and infuse your earth with the wholeness we seek.

With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal, and especially with (*names of those who have died*), lead us to a future we cannot yet see, and at the end draw all humanity to yourself.

Now with all of the family you saved by your love,
we shout blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, might, be to our God forever and
ever. Amen. **Amen!**

LORD'S PRAYER (Red Hymnal p. 154)

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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us
to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet
you on the way. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL READING & BLESSING

A reading from Hebrews.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every
weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set
before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that
was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right
hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Looking to Jesus and surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, may we live forgiven, running the
race God has set before us both now and to eternity, in the name of the Father, and of † the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *For All Your Saints, O Lord* (Red Hymnal # 427)

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,

