

# All Saints Sunday Worship

*November 1, 2020*

## **GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 116)**

In the name of the Father,

and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG *For All the Saints* (ELW 422)**

## For All the Saints

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,  
*Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.*  
 6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the  
 7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through

thee by faith before the world confessed, thy  
 Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; . . .  
 saints triumphant rise in bright array; the  
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host, . . .

name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
 thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
 King of glory passes on his way.  
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,  
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
 5 The golden evening brightens in the west;

we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet  
 steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and  
 soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest; . . .

all hearts are one in thee, for all are thine.  
 sweet are the calm of gain and arms are strong.  
 is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## All the Saints Words

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!

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!

4 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!

5 The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
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 (ELW p. 120)**

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 (ELW p. 124)

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.

## FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation.

*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.**

**PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22**

Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing. (*Ps. 34:9*)

1 I 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.**

3 Proclaim 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.**

5 Look 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.**

7 The 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!**

9 Fear 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.**

22 O 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.

*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.*

1 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. 2 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. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)

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

### GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

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

*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.*

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.**

### SERMON (ELW p. 125)

Today's Gospel is a powerful reminder of the importance of not chasing after what the world tells us to chase after... money, power, prestige and fame. Today's Gospel reminds us that these things are not the realities that will make us blessed. Rather, purity of heart, being merciful, pursuing righteousness in the face of persecution, and working for peace, those are the things that are lifted up in today's Gospel as example of what being blessed looks like. These things are lifted up in today's texts as reminders that, following God doesn't necessarily lead to an easy life

without hardships. Perhaps the opposite is, in fact, true. Following the path of Christ can lead to rejection, persecution, and mourning. But, in the middle and through that kind of life, we hear the promise that God will be with us, comforting us and providing for us. We trust that the promise of the resurrection is awaiting us, and that new life begins for us, even in the middle of our grief and despair over a confusing and painful world as well as the loss of many we love.

Today we remember saints we have lost in our lives as well as those we have lost in the church. And, not only in the scriptures we receive today but also in the lives of these individuals do we see what a life that is blessed by God looks like. As the Gospel alludes, none of the disciples of Christ lived lives devoid of hardship, but they all had marks of God's blessings as well. Likewise, they knew and showed us, through their lives, what types of things you should focus on in order to have a blessed life. Ross focused on caring for animals, and Dorothy Nord showered love on her students. Ruth blessed those in the care facilities and Swede made sure people had the cars they needed to get to work. Alice and Norma blessed the world with their love of plants, and Dorothy Hallstrom shared her gift for music. Nancy used her gift for words and brought joy through her crafts and Loren cared for animals and land. Julia brought love to Worthington through her work on committees and Ardis brought relief with her work as a physical therapist. Rev. Craig preached the Word and Weldon started providing for his family and community from a young age in all sorts of ways, even pumping gas in his teen years while others were off to war. Many blessed our church with time, talent and treasure. All made sacrifices for their families to show them love and care. When I look at those we are remembering today, I see reminders of what makes a life or a person blessed. What makes a life or a person blessed is loving others, serving others, using your gifts and talents to make the world a better place and love. This way of living may bring hardships, it certainly doesn't avoid or reduce them, but it is the path to which Christ calls us, and Christ promises to meet us there. We know, from looking at these blessed lives, that Christ was traveling with these saints. As we reflect on the words of today's Gospel and the lives of these saints who have passed, may we be reminded of our own callings to love and serve the world.

May we also hear the promise of the lessons we hear today. Revelation gives us a glimpse of the Resurrection, where people are sheltered from all hardships. It says, "They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17 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." In these words, we remember that, likewise, dementia, aging, COVID, cancer and pain are no more for the saints we remember today. As the words of 1 John remind us, we remember that these saints in our lives were and still are God's beloved children, and God is watching over God's beloved children in eternity still. We come together to hear these words and remind each other of this promise. Psalm 34, too, reminds us that the Lord redeems us and is with us... always. We reminded each other of these promises at the gravesides and funerals of these blessed saints, and we remind each other again of this hope now. May we find ways, through cards, calls, and care, to keep reminding each other of the hope of these words each day.

Today, we also remember that we are saints, children of God, beloved by God. Our world is a mess. On top of the struggles, pain and suffering of losing your loved ones, I know that many of you did not get to honor your loved ones in the ways you would normally want to. Frankly, it

just really sucks, and our church grieves this with you. But, today, we hear the promise that we are not alone in that grief. Like the Gospel reminds us, God provides us with blessings even when we are pour in spirit, and promises to comfort us when we are mourning. As the Psalm reminds us, we take refuge in God's shelter.

May we, too, be instruments of blessing and peace to each other. Right now, the world is dividing into camps and dolling out blame. But, we do not belong to this world. May we be different. May we, God's beloved children, love each other likewise.

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Shall We Gather at the River* (ELW 423)

### Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



## **Words**

Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. Refrain

3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. Refrain

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. Refrain

## **CREED (ELW p. 126)**

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

## **HONORING OF SAINTS WHO HAVE PASSED THIS YEAR**

### **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.

*A brief silence.*

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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **OFFERING AND CGC MOMENT**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 129)**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)**

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 (ELW p. 130)**

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 (\_\_\_\_\_ *and*) 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 (ELW p. 130)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven 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. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen, amen. Amen, amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 134)**

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 (ELW p. 134)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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

### **SENDING OF COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,  
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament  
with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,  
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence  
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING (ELW p. 136)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In* (TFF 180)

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In

1 Oh, when the saints go march-ing in, oh, when the  
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the  
 3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the  
 4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they

saints go march-ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that

num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.  
 num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.  
 num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.  
 num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.

5 Oh, when they crown him King of kings,  
 oh, when they crown him King of kings,  
 O Lord, I want to be in that number  
 when they crown him King of kings.

6 And on that hallelujah day,  
 and on that hallelujah day,  
 O Lord, I want to be in that number  
 on that hallelujah day.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In words

1 Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
 oh, when the saints go marching in,  
 O Lord, I want to be in that number  
 when the saints go marching in.

2 Oh, when the Lord in glory comes,  
 oh, when the Lord in glory comes,  
 O Lord, I want to be in that number  
 when the Lord in glory comes.

3 Oh, when the new world is revealed,  
 oh, when the new world is revealed,  
 O Lord, I want to be in that number  
 when the new world is revealed.

4 Oh, when they gather round the throne,  
 oh, when they gather round the throne,  
 Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number  
 when they gather round the throne.

5 Oh, when they crown him King of kings,  
oh, when they crown him King of kings,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
when they crown him King of kings.

6 And on that hallelujah day,  
and on that hallelujah day,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
on that hallelujah day.

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 137)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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