



Sunday, November 1, 2020

All Saints Day

Service of the Word

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.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshipping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in bold indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Adjustments to our service. In order to comply with safety and social distancing guidelines, it will be mandatory that everyone have a face covering and everyone must be mindful of keeping their distance from others. Please refrain from mingling in confined spaces before and/or after service.

Other adjustments are:

- Congregational singing is discouraged. If you feel you must, please sing softly with your mask in place.
- The sign of the PEACE will be offered by a wave or bow while staying in place.
- The OFFERING PLATE will not be passed or brought forward. It will be in the back of the sanctuary instead.
- If this is a service of HOLY COMMUNION, communion elements will be available as you exit the sanctuary.
- At the conclusion of the service, everyone is asked to remain in their pew. Ushers will dismiss people by row to maintain safe spacing.
- The Sanctuary, Narthex and Broadway lobby are the only areas open. All other areas of St. Stephen's are closed.

Prayer Requests. Please call the office if you'd like to place someone on our prayer list.

PRELUDE: For All Faithful Who Have Answered

+ GATHERING +

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding deacon begins.

D Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

D Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the deacon continues.

D We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

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

All are invited to listen.

*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!*

GREETING

D 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

D We remember, O God...

C The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time,

D We remember, O God...

**C The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes,
the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.**

D We remember, O God...

**C The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends,
the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.**

D We remember, O God...

**C The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit,
the reminder of his words, the sharing of his suffering,
the glory of his resurrection: shown forth in the lives of his disciples,
young and old, dead and living, articulate and silent, strange and familiar,
brilliant and ordinary.**

D We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.

**C Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us worship God with joy!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

D 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.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

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

FIRST 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.

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.”

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

PSALM: PSALM 34:1-10, 22

*The psalm for the day is read responsively. The lector will read the plain text and all are invited to read the text in **bold**.*

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 de- | livers them.

⁸**Taste and see that the | LORD is good;**
happy are they who take ref- | uge 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 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.

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.

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

GOSPEL: 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.

D The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C 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. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *By All Your Saints in Warfare* (LBW 177A)

All are invited to stand and listen as the Word of God is proclaimed in song.

*By all your saints in warfare,
for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus,
forevermore be blest!
For you have won the battle
that they might wear the crown;
and now they shine in glory
reflected from your throne.*

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith:

**C 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 INTERCESSION

A 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.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Your mercy is great.

A 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. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE SAINTS

D Today, we pray especially for ~ Eleanor Trommsdorff, Shirley Alleman, Fran Schmoller, Robert Minet, Tony Matalas, Frank Schmoller, Betty Matthews, Alfred Barcavage and all those we now name silently in our hearts...*brief silence*...

We miss them so, O God.
we long to know if they are safe,
if they know we are sorry,
if they know how we love them.

We trust in your future glory.
But the end of time is little comfort when our hearts grieve today.
Take care of them, O God.

To their names, we add all your beloved saints.
You kindled the fire in their hearts.
They shared their light with us.
Though their flames have sputtered and died, we stoke the embers of their memories.

A candle is lit as names are read from the Book of Remembrance.

D Witness, O God,
the memories we kindle for the loved ones we have lost.
We know, Jesus,
that on the day of your glorious resurrection you shall lose patience with death,
and your Spirit shall restore life to all those who have lost it.
Until that day, lift up the souls of those we've lost, for their hope rests in you alone.

Send us faith in Christ Jesus, risen from the grave,
the unquenchable fire no darkness can overcome.
Pull us to our feet; light our path through the darkness.
Wipe the tears from our eyes, and make all things new.
In your name we trust and pray,
C Amen

PEACE

The presiding deacon and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

D The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

All may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace with a wave or bow while staying in place.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

All are invited to stand and give thanks for the gift of God's Word.

D Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

D By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

D Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

D Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

D Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

+ SENDING +

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

BLESSING

D May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May the Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy.

May the Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* (ELW 424)

All are invited to listen.

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,

bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,

raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"

Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,

archangels, virtues, angel choirs:

"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: For All the Saints Who've Shown Your Love

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.

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