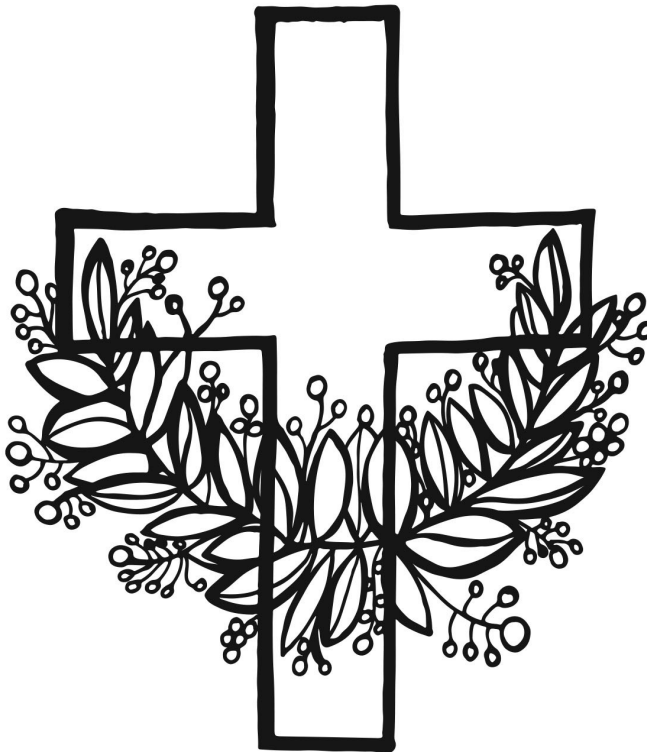




**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,
Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660
clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



All Saints Sunday
November 5, 2023

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals (“ELW”) in the seats in front on you.

If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God’s people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child’s life. There’s some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God’s love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men’s and women’s restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The **COMMON CUP** is available for anyone who wishes. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that a pastor can bring communion to you.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Gieschen

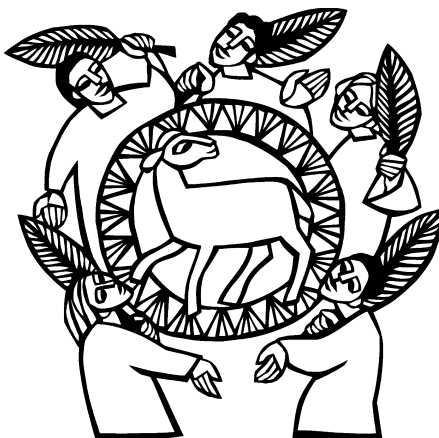
WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*





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 below.
 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 dread, 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, we feebly struggle,
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the
 5 The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful



they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are
 distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again and arms are
 servants cometh rest; . . . sweet is the calm of paradise the



thine. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 strong,
 blest.

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of all people
from every tribe and language;
you call true witnesses
who sing your praise,
live your grace
and work for peace:
may we share their faith
and know our need for you
that we might be a blessing
to the hunger of your world;
through Jesus Christ, whose body we are.
Amen.

WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.
When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level
and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR ALL SAINTS

**For those who lit our lives with joy,
for those who have touched us with tenderness,
for those whose loss fills us with longing,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have loved us for ourselves,
looking with acceptance on all that we are,
and cherishing us without condition or constraint.

**Holy God, within and amongst us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have stood alongside us,
holding us in the depths of elation or despair
where words of joy or rescue fall silent.

**Holy God, within and amongst us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who would not let us stand still,
edging us gently into the open space
of new understanding and delighted exploration.

**Holy God, within and amongst us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have challenged us to grow,
perceiving all that we have it in us to become
and daring us to dream beyond our imagining.

**Holy God, within and amongst us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have travelled before us,
showing us in their persistent courage and tenderness
how to live in love, and die in faith and hope.

**Holy God, within and amongst us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate your faithfulness, O God, to those who have died...

(Names are read)

We celebrate your faithfulness, O God, to those baptized this year...

(Names are read)

**For those who lit our lives with joy,
for those who have touched us with tenderness,
for those whose loss fills us with longing,
we give thanks in glad remembrance. Amen.**

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.

PSALM 34:1-10, 22

Refrain

Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for
those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

Psalm Tone

- I will bless the LORD¹ at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be¹ in my mouth.
- ²I will glory¹ in the LORD;
let the lowly hear¹ and rejoice. R**
- ³Proclaim with me the greatness¹ of the LORD;
let us exalt God's¹ name together.**
- ⁴I sought the LORD, who¹ answered me
and delivered me from¹ all my terrors.**
- ⁵Look upon the LORD¹ and be radiant,
and let not your faces¹ be ashamed.**
- ⁶I called in my affliction, and¹ the LORD heard me
and saved me from¹ all my troubles. R**
- ⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who¹ fear the LORD
and de-¹livers them.**
- ⁸Taste and see that the¹ LORD is good;
happy are they who take ref-¹uge in God!**
- ⁹Fear the LORD, you saints¹ of the LORD,
for those who fear the¹ LORD lack nothing.**
- ¹⁰The lions are in want and¹ suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing¹ that is good.**
- ²²O LORD, you redeem the life¹ of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will¹ not be punished. R**

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

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



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.

HOLY 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.

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.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #428

Give Thanks for Saints

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -



round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their



while they live and when they die how force - ful -
true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that



ly they speak— the strong, who once were weak!
toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
cerns they own— God's love through them is known.
we may say we share their pil - grim way.

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

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.

A brief silence.

Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. We pray for the churches and people of Oceania – with thanksgiving for the faithful witness of churches, and for good governance and relief from the dangers of climate change. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy comforter, we pray for this congregation, that the promise of your new life may be shared and experienced. We pray for the funeral ministry of this congregation, that families and friends seeking your love find it here. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks, remembering especially missionaries John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen, Martin, Bishop of Tours, and the teacher Søren Kierkegaard. Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The assembly is seated as those wishing to join the congregation are invited forward.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The assembly stands.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Lutheran Diaconal Association** www.thelda.org.*

If you wish to give electronically, browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use [our CLC app](#) (download at clcvalpo.org/app).



OFFERTORY (8:00 am):

Fugue in a minor

Pachelbel

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am):

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

(Psalm 51: 10-13)

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is the one.")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



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

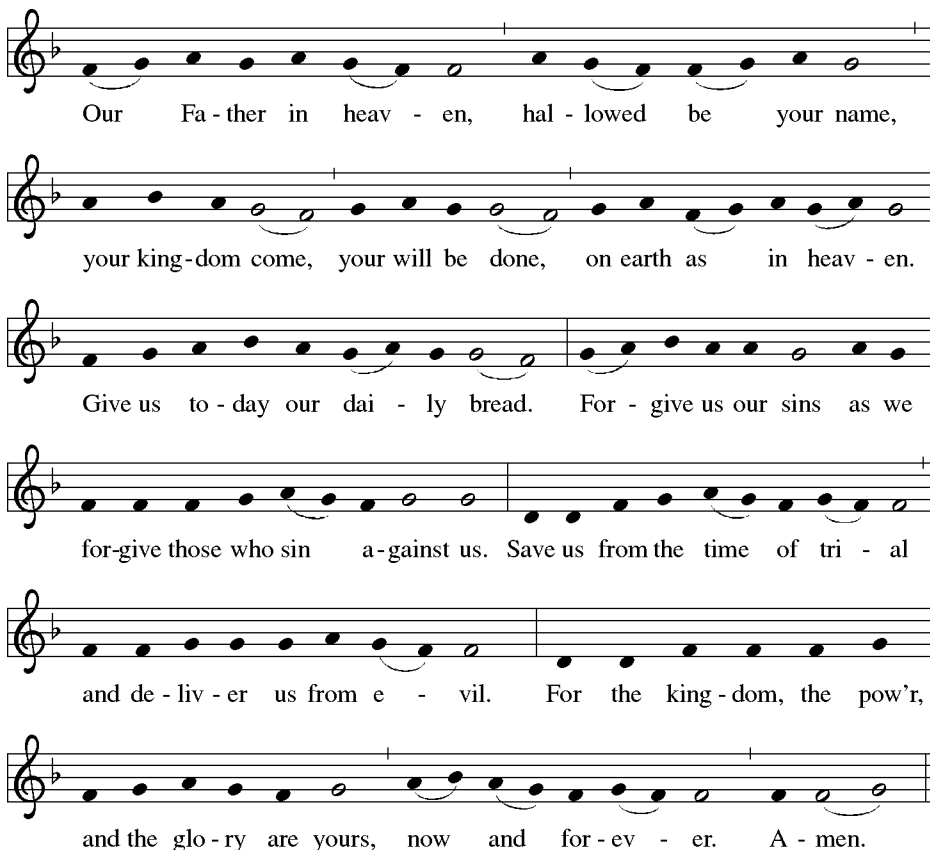


Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.
Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The **COMMON CUP** is available for anyone who wishes. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 How shall I sing that maj - es - ty which an - gels do ad -
 2 En - light - en with faith's light my heart, in - flame it with love's
 3 How great a be - ing, Lord, is thine, which doth all be - ings



mire? Let dust in dust and si - lence lie; sing, sing, ye
 fire, then shall I sing and take my part with that ce -
 keep! Thy knowl - edge is the on - ly line to sound so



heav'n - ly choir. Thou - sands of thou - sands stand a -
 les - tial choir. They sing, be - cause thou art their
 vast a deep; thou art a sea with - out a



round thy throne, O God most high; ten thou - sand
 sun; Lord, send a beam on me; for where heav'n
 shore, a sun with - out a sphere; thy time is



times ten thou - sand sound thy praise; but who am I?
 is but once be - gun, there al - le - lu - ias be.
 now and ev - er - more, thy place is ev - 'ry - where.

Text: John Mason, 1646–1694

Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991

Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

ELW #426 *Sing With All the Saints in Glory*



- 1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, sing the res - ur - rec - tion song!
- 2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing all that eye has yet per - ceived!
- 3 Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who once was dead.



Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry, to the for - mer days be - long.
Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing nev - er that full joy con - ceived.
Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es! Child of God, lift up your head!



All a - round the clouds are break - ing, soon the storms of time shall cease;
God has prom - ised, Christ pre - pares it, there on high our wel - come waits.
Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won - ders crowd on faith; what joy un - known,



in God's like - ness we a - wak - en, know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
when, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

Text: William J. Irons, 1812–1883, alt.
Music: MISSISSIPPI, William Bradley Roberts, b. 1947
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*During the sending hymn, water is taken from the baptismal font,
and we follow the cross in procession to the Memorial Garden.*

SENDING HYMN ELW #418

Rejoice in God's Saints

1 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!
 2 Some march with e - vents to turn them God's way;
 3 Re - joice in those saints, un - praised and un - known,
 4 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!

A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.
 some need to with - draw, the bet - ter to pray;
 who bear some - one's cross, or shoul - der their own;
 A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.

Their faith in ac - quir - ing the hab - it of prayer,
 some car - ry the gos - pel through fire and through flood:
 they share our com - plain - ing, our com - forts, our cares:
 In lov - ing, in liv - ing, they prove it is true:

their depth of a - dor - ing, Lord, help us to share.
 our world is their par - ish, their pur - pose is God.
 what pa - tience in car - ing, what cour - age is theirs!
 their way of self - giv - ing, Lord, leads us to you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*We give thanks for the waters of baptism—
God's promises that hold us in life and in death.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.



Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Shawn Longacre	Portia Novak
Lector	Venstrom Family	Phil Hahn
Prayer Assistant	Phyllis Schroeder	Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski
Communion Assistants	Phyllis Schroeder Linda Mapes	Phil Hahn Jacquie Chevalier
Ushers	Luke Venstrom Irene Adams	
Sound/Light	Zach Wehner	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	-----	John Buggeln
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Sanctuary Choir Lena Gibson, cantor	
Communion Baker	Marilyn McGawn	

Stewardship Snippet

“I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

–Psalm 34:1

Today we begin our culture’s month of thanksgiving by giving thanks for the lives of the saints now at rest. This week spend time thanking God for those who have helped form your faith and encouraged your discipleship walk.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the amazing diversity of people and cultures living on the islands of Oceania
- the magnificent natural scenery and sea life
- the strong, faithful presence of churches in these lands
- the stories and bold witness to the impact of climate change, reminding the rest of the world that we are all in the same ‘boat’ on this planet, 70 percent of which is covered by the ocean.

We **pray** for:

- efforts to preserve these island nations in the midst of rising seas
- those adversely affected by earthquakes, volcanoes and cyclones
- those dealing with the legacy of past nuclear weapons testing and with garbage dumping today
- good governance – especially in preserving indigenous cultures –which effectively serves those who are impoverished, hungry, lacking education or unable to make a living.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of November 5

November 7

John Christian Frederick Heyer, died 1873; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, died 1719; Ludwig Nommensen, died 1918; missionaries

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India, Ziegenbalg was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities who favored a different missionary style. He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. Nommensen was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary. Working among the Batak people, he translated the scriptures into their language, and honored their native culture.

November 11

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397

Martin’s pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

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).

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