****

**All Saints’**

“These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” *Revelation 7:14*

**AS WE GATHER**

Today is bittersweet. Bitter, because some of us will be remembering someone we love who died recently, and we are still grieving. Yet sweet, because that loved one was also loved by God, redeemed by Jesus, and lives in that place Jesus went ahead to prepare. We grieve, as Paul says, but not “as others do who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We also hear the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes, where Jesus blesses people not usually considered blessed: the poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, peacemakers, the persecuted. The broken circumstances of your life do not define you entirely; Jesus defines you as blessed because He has taken hold of you in love and mercy and will never let you go. Blessed are you.

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Lord, on this weekend dedicated to All Saints’, we gather in Your name to remember and to rejoice.

**People: We remember the ones we love—ones loved also by You.**

Pastor: We remember, especially among us since our last All Saints’ festival, Iona Kline, Robert Adams, and Loretta Predoehl. We remember how You embraced each, showed them grace, and filled them with faith.

**People: We remember with heavy hearts. We remember with thankful hearts.**

Pastor: We rejoice in the resurrection promised in and through Jesus.

**People: We rejoice that Jesus has overcome death forever.**

Pastor: We rejoice that You are God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who will never leave us nor forsake us.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“For All the Saints”* (*LSB* 677, vs. 1-4)

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!

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!

Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,

fight as the saints who nobly fought of old

(and) win them the victor’s crown of gold!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!

We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;

(yet) all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Revelation 7:9-17 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 1 John 3:1-3 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 5:1-12 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

# THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth.**

 **And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into Hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

 **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**HYMN** *“Sing with All the Saints in Glory”* (*LSB* 671)

Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!

Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, to the former days belong.

All around the clouds are breaking;

soon the storms of time shall cease;

in God’s likeness we awaken, knowing everlasting peace.

Oh, what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!

Holiest hearts for ages pleading never that full joy conceived.

God has promised, Christ prepares it;

there on high our welcome waits.

Ev’ry humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the’eternal gates.

Life eternal! Heav’n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead.

Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head!

Life eternal! Oh, what wonders

crowd on faith; what joy unknown,

When, amid earth’s closing thunders, saints shall stand before the throne!

**SERMON “*Blessed Are”***

# RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (*Saturday only)* +**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *1 John 3:1*

Pastor: In Baptism, God welcomes us into the family of Christ and embraces us with His love. Welcomed and embraced, we are free to confess our sins, trusting the power of Christ to lead us to newness of life.

**People: We confess, good Lord, that we have sinned against You and our neighbors in thought, word, and deed.** **We have hungered and thirsted for unworthy things. Our hearts are not right within us. Forgive us, O God, for the sake of Jesus, our Brother.**

Pastor: Today we hear these beautiful words from John: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen. Thanks be to God for our Baptism into Christ!**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

 *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* (*LSB* 725)

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN**

 *“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”* (*LSB* 670)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. As You, Lord Jesus, took bread, gave thanks, blessed it, broke it, and gave it for us to eat, so fill us with the Holy Spirit that as we receive the gifts You give with thanks, use ours to bless the world and share our bounty for the sake of Your kingdom, giving what is first-fruits in what we are and hold in service to You.

**People: Amen.**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“For All the Saints”* (*LSB* 677, vs. 5-8)

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,

steals on the ear the distant triumph song,

(and) hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;

Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;

sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:

(the) saints triumphant rise in bright array;

(the) King of Glory passes on His way.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*(all rising to sing)* 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

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Curt Hoover, Rev. Alebachew Teshome,

Rev. Craig Fiebiger, Rev. Doug DeWitt

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**