



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Sunday, November 1, 2020
All Saints Day
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy
Broadcasting on 91.5 FM**

Gathering
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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.

Revelation 7:9-17

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

husband and wife, asked my grandfather if they could take my mother and aunt with them to church on Sundays. My grandfather agreed. As a result, my mother and aunt attended church faithfully, participated in Sunday School, and were active in many other ways at the church. For that, I will be forever grateful to these saints!

When my grandfather began a new job in Milwaukee, my mother and aunt were in junior high school. Soon after they arrived, they found a church to attend close to their apartment. They walked to church on Sundays, participated in Confirmation, Sunday school, church choir, and many other activities of the church.

I don't even want to think about what my mother and aunt's life would have been like if not for the grace of God and the kindness of that couple in Cleveland! They were everyday saints who offered two motherless girls a church home. They gave my mother and aunt an extended church family that welcomed them and encouraged them to grow in God's love. Were it not for these saints, I don't know that my parents would have met years later at church, that my brothers and I would have been raised in the church, or that I would have become a pastor!

This is one example of how God works in our lives. Like many of you, I too will be thinking today about the everyday saints who encouraged my family's spiritual growth and made a difference in my life. The saints we remember were often role models, mentors, teachers and guides for us in our daily walk with God. Therefore, let us keep their faithfulness in mind, and give thanks to God for all they did to help us grow as Christians and disciples of God. And let us remember that we too are to be servants of God, helping others during our earthly lives to know and love God. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy

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;

⁷for 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.”

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

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

¹I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

²I 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.

⁴I 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.

⁶I 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.

⁸Taste 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.

¹⁰The 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

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 John 3:1-3

*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008
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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.

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

*Gospel Acclamation

GOSPEL READING

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 5:1-12

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

11/01/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today is "All Saints Day." It is the day when we especially remember people who have gone to their heavenly home. For many of us, they are everyday saints who made a difference in our lives, including family members, friends, teachers, mentors, supervisors, and others.

During my sermon this morning, for those at the Drive-In Worship Service, there will be a short musical interlude. This will be a time when I will invite you to think about the saints who have made a difference in your life. (If you will be worshiping at home, please take a minute to do the same.)

But, before then, in this letter, I am going to tell you about two persons whom I never met, who I remember today on "All Saints Day." I do not even know their names, but I know that they were everyday saints and servants of God who changed my family's life for the better.

My mother, Eloise, was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Her mother, my grandmother, Mary (Mae), died when my mother was 3-years old, and my Aunt Shirley was 1.5-years old. This was a sad and difficult time for my grandfather, Ray, mother and aunt. It was even more difficult, because it was in the midst of the Depression. My grandfather was working a W.P.A. job and supplementing it by playing the piano on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. They were renting a home (or perhaps, rooms in a home) at this time. Their landlords, a Christian

sanctuary? We are going to find a tree, as large as those we used to bring in the sanctuary, for the church lawn. Of course we will have lights, but how shall we decorate it? With angels!! Details in next weeks bulletin.

CONTACTS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever (608-387-2311).

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani or Louise Buchholz (608-435-6435).

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FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

persecuted the prophets who were before you."

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

As I begin my sermon today on "All Saints Day," I would like you to take a minute to think about the people who made a difference in your life as a Christian. I am speaking, especially, about the saints who have gone before us to their heavenly home. Let us listen to some music, and reflect on the persons who encouraged us in our Christian walk while they were on earth.

As most of you know, I am a widow. My husband died 14 years ago from cancer. His earthly death was one of the most difficult things that I have ever endured. So, for all of you here today who too have lost spouses, parents, aunts, uncles, and other loved ones, please know that I understand that this day may be a difficult one for you! While our hearts are saddened that they are no longer with us on earth, on "All Saints Day," we may be comforted when we remember them as saints. Together, we rejoice in their and our baptisms, and in the baptisms of many new children of God in the church universal. Together, we praise God, now and forever, for God's free gift of grace that allows sinners to become saints.

In the Bible, images, names, and metaphors have great significance, especially in the Book of Revelation. We consider the context at the start of Revelation, in Chapter 5. John is weeping, because no one can be found to open the scroll or to look into it. Per Mitchell Reddish, "...the scroll represents the kingdom of God that is conveyed by deed or testament to humanity" (Revelation, p. 108). If no one can be found to open the scroll, the kingdom of God will not be made available to humanity! But John's feeling of dread changes in verse 5. He states, "one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of

Judah, the Root of David has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." But when John looks, he sees not a Lion, but "between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered..."

John is taken aback. He was expecting to see a Lion, a fierce, warrior animal; an image of one who is strong and courageous! But instead, John sees a Lamb, an image often associated with gentleness and meekness. And this lamb

appears to have suffered greatly! We ask--how can this slaughtered lamb be the only one that can open the kingdom of God for humanity? Because the Lamb is no other than Jesus Christ, who suffered on the cross, died, ascended into heaven, and who is at the right hand of God!

Let us consider another image from Revelation 7, 9-11; that of the multitude in white robes. We identify them as saints. Thousands upon thousands of them are present, worshipping together! Our passage states,

...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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Revelation 7:9-10, NRSV)

We recall with humility and gratitude, that our salvation, like theirs, comes from God! For we know that we are sinful people who cannot live up to the perfection of the law. Yet, even in our failings, even with all our faults, Christ died for us! Only a divine being could atone for all of humanity's sins. Only Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

Later, our pericope from Revelation, describes heavenly worship and the multitude "singing." It is a joyful, cheerful, uplifting thought for us on "All Saints Day" and every day! It is a joyful glimpse of what life is like for the saints! Listen to these words, as you remember the saints who filled your lives with joy while they were on earth.--

Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen!

Their song, reminds us of the song that we sing during worship, "This is the Feast." The song uses similar images and words,

* In Verse 1, we sing-- "Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his."

* and in Verse 2-- "Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen."

We hear in our passage from Revelation today, the words asking who are the ones present in the multitude? Are these the saints of old whom we know by

How can we, from Wilton, respond to this command from Jesus? By

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

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.



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.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

filling a shoebox. The amazing journey of a simple shoebox gift begins with you and results in evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication of believers as the children share the Good News with family and friends.

We have shoeboxes available, after service or let Nalani or Greg know you would like one (or more) and we will bring them to you. Please note we will need them returned no later than noon on November 23.

POINSETTIAS

We generally have a number of poinsettia plants, in honor or memory of loved ones, decorate the sanctuary throughout the Christmas season. What are we to do this year when we will not be holding service in the 11

We pray for all who are in distress due to depression or anxiety. We pray for those dealing with abuse. We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, including Katie, Carla, Ruth, Judy, Alrita, Dick, Lisa, Pam, Curt, Deb, Lois, Tessa, Doug, Chris, Karl, Frank, Michelle, Colton, Jeff, those affected by the Coronavirus, and those we name aloud and in our hearts.

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Judy Bever, Alrita Ornes, Dick Krause, Lisa Rhodes, Pam Liefke, Curt Brueggen, Deb Paeth, Lois Reineke, Tessa Klipstein, Colton Krueger, Michelle Krueger, Frank Wendt, Jeff (Scott) DuCharme.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale, Seth Tormoen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Matthew 28: ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

their titles--St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Peter, St. Paul, and others? Are these the martyrs of years past? Yes, they are present. For scripture says, "These are the ones who come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:14) But other saints who are less well known are present, too. Many who would not have thought of themselves as saints! Many who were human beings like us; everyday persons who through their baptism, faith in God and God's grace, are saints! Christian believers who reached the consummation of their baptism. People of faith of every race, nationality, creed, heritage, socio-economic status, ability, and more, that once lived on earth! All peoples whom God has created who are members of the body of Christ! Faithful saints, some who suffered greatly, whose earthly lives ended, yet who were freed-- freed from all their sins, hunger, thirst, strife, oppression, everything! They were freed--justified through their faith in the one, Triune God, God's gift of grace, and Christ's righteousness which gives us salvation. Freed forevermore!

During this time of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is important for us to remember the saints in their heavenly home. It is important for us to remember the everlasting joy that they experience now and forever. It is important for us to remember that we too can someday be saints like them through the grace and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the heart of our scripture passage: Jesus the lamb was slain, for us! Jesus who displayed gentleness, humility, and meekness, accepted God the Father's decision that he must die on the cross to atone for human

ity's sins. Yet, in Christ's gentleness, humility and meekness, his death and glorious resurrection, we see not Christ's weakness, but Christ's power! This is "the foolishness of the cross." For the one who appears to be weak, is in fact, all powerful: The Lamb: Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

And the multitude in Revelation includes God's children of every time and place, joyfully singing together with one voice in praise to God and Jesus Christ, the Lamb. They sing as with one voice, a song of justice, a song of freedom, a song of liberation. Some lived lives of oppression, injustice and discrimination, yet they are now free! Jesus Christ has triumphed over evil, over the bondage of sin and all the things that caused their human suffering throughout the earth. Jesus Christ has set them free from their sins! We too, are one with the multitude; we are one in Christ. We are the priesthood of all believers, and there is a place for us too! Through our one baptism, we are new people in Christ. And when death comes to us, through God's forgiveness and grace, we too can be reunited with

loved ones as we join the saints praising and worshipping God in our new heavenly home!

But until that glorious day, let us worship God here, in solidarity with the heavenly saints, who worship God around the throne. Let us sing praises to Jesus Christ! For Christ shows us the way to his new kingdom even before his second coming. Jesus ascended into heaven and he will guide us there to our heavenly home someday. This is the vision we see in Revelation. It is a vision of faith, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that leads to justice. It is a vision of faith, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that leads to mercy and forgiveness. It is a vision of faith, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that leads to compassion for all who have been in bondage to sin, devalued, and oppressed. It is God's vision of faith that we too will "care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." Therefore, let us "Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen."

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(* Holy Baptism, page 228, ELW, ** "This is the Feast," verse 2)

Apostles' Creed

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

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. 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, Florence Krause and Doug Nevin. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.