

All Saints Sunday

November 3, 2024

10:15 am

Prelude

Welcome

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end. **Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy, **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.**

These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are ✙ forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #423 "Shall We Gather at the River"

- 1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angels 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

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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.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm: Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

² **For the LORD has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

³ Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's holy place?

⁴ **Those of innocent hands and purity of heart,
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by what is false.**

⁵ They shall receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ **Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ **Who is this King of glory?**

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6a

Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ^{6a} Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. They are before the throne of God, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. *Alleluia.* (Rev. 7:15)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of John, beginning with the Eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 11:32-44

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent

me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

A RITE OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS

P: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation.

C: He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we have received from God.

P: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death.

C: We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in a new life.

P: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, those who die in the Lord shall live with you in joy and blessedness.

C: We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors.

P: We remember on this day also all our beloved faithful departed, our family, our neighbors, we now name them in our hearts.....

P: Into your hands we commend them, O merciful Savior, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming.

C: Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: ELW #638 "*Blessed Assurance*"

(all are invited to the candle lighting for your loved ones)

- 1. Blessed assurance, Jesus in mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain: **This is my story, this is my son, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)

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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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" 1st verse

1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

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Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The 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 thanks and praise.**

Preface

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

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

Behold, God is making all things new.

Take your place in the new creation.

Distribution Hymn: ELW #439 "Soon and Very Soon"

- 1. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very Soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 2. No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 3. No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**
- 4. Son and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the Kin, Soon and very Soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

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Post-communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Litany of Farewell for Pastor David

Leader: For the past six years, Pastor David has served us here at Calvary Lutheran Church as our vicar and pastor. He has offered his gifts and has worked diligently for the up-building of the church in this place. By the grace of God, he has served us well.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: We have contributed to Pastor David's ministry, supporting and encouraging him, responding to his skills as a minister of word and sacrament. By the grace of God, we have blessed Pastor David in his ministry among us.

Pastor: I am grateful for your care and encouragement and for your partnership in the gospel.

Leader: Pastor David, In August 2018, you began sharing various pastoral duties with Interim Pastor Gerry Giese. In January 2019, the Synod conducted a Blessing of your ministry as you began your seminary voyage at Wartburg Theological Seminary. In 2023, you graduated from Wartburg Seminary under the TEEM program and you were ordained as Pastor of Word and Sacrament at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapidan, Minnesota. You were called you to be our pastor and vicar to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel, you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community. You have served our congregation faithfully for the past six plus years. You are now leaving our midst to other endeavors and experiences. As members of this congregation, we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your retirement, bringing closure to your ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Congregation: Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor David and for our life together in this congregation and community. As He has been a blessing to us, so now send him forth to a new chapter in his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregational Leader: We send you forth with a blessing.

Congregation: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace now and forever. Amen.

Leader: *Any final words, Pastor David?*

Pastor: Some thoughts...

Pastor: Let us pray **Glorious Lord, For our time of ministry together, we give thanks to you, O God. In the hour of parting, we ask the comfort of your Holy Spirit. And in looking toward tomorrow, we trust that your hand will guide this congregation to new strength, new hope, and new joy in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in whose name we work and pray. Amen.**

Blessing

The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW #705 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

- 1. God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r; crown your ancient church's story; bring is bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**
- 2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, as sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom Grant us courage for the living of these days, for the living of these days.**
- 3. Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**
- 4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Remembrance of the Saints

Today, we formally remember congregational members who have passed since the last All Saints Day. This year, we remember Victoria Reedstrom, who passed away on November 9, 2023. In addition, we remember the names of family and friends of Calvary Lutheran Church, in whose memory we light our candles. We remember them in our prayers, and we give thanks for their lives. We remember and find strength in their faith and the faith of all the saints both known to us and known only to God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Announcements:

~ Daylight Savings Time has ended for 2024.

~ 2nd Annual Women's Event **Warm your Heart with Plaid!** Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC) in Mankato. Contact BLC for more information,

~ Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at Calvary on Nov. 27, 2024 at 6:30 pm with Holden Evening Prayer service. After worship, a Pie/Ice Cream social will be held in the fellowship hall. A signup sheet for bringing pies will be on the kitchen counter.

~ Calvary is looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to represent Calvary on the Welcome Committee, which is where Calvary and four other Mankato ELCA churches are

sponsoring a family of four from Nicaragua. Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their two boys have been in Minnesota almost two years. This committee meets monthly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Contact Bob Diesch or Jolene Anderson for more information on the committee.

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