

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

November 4, 2018

10:30 am



ALL SAINTS' DAY

God's Blessed and Beloved Children

AS WE GATHER

This Sunday we observe the feast of All Saints' Day. While many congregations use this service to remember those saints who have departed this life in faith, we do well to remember that "saint" is simply another word for "believer" or "follower of Jesus." All of those who gather to confess Jesus as Lord are indeed already saints. The Gospel for today is a section of the Sermon on the Mount known as the Beatitudes. Jesus begins this sermon by recounting the present reality of those who have faith: they are blessed. Even when it looks as though the faithful are the opposite of blessed, they are indeed blessed because theirs is the kingdom of heaven. They are a part of the reign and rule of God. All saints, including you, are a part of the reign and rule of God; therefore, you are blessed.

GATHERING SONGS

SANCTUARY

Thompson-Scruggs

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SONGS AT THE PRELUDE

"Praise Him"
"Be Strong and Courageous"

Eli Faulk, congas

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

Wickham

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,
who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

**CHORUS: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.**

Who brings our chaos back into order,
who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. **CHORUS**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Revelation 14:13; 7:14; Psalm 149:4; 1 John 3:1*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

People: Blessed indeed, that they may rest from their labors.

Pastor: They have washed their robes

People: and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Pastor: The Lord takes pleasure in His people;

People: He adorns the humble with salvation.

Pastor: See what kind of love the Father has given to us,

People: that we should be called children of God.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we celebrate God's salvation and remember the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, we are reminded that all saints, both living and dead, have led sinful lives. Even though we are God's children, what we will be has not yet appeared. We remain contaminated by sin and evil until Jesus returns. As we come before God, let us consider our sinfulness and ask God for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we are all guilty and ashamed of our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. We have not always lived as Your children. We have often failed to seek peace. We have not been pure of heart. Forgive us, renew us, and bless us, so that we may rejoice and be glad to be counted as Your children.

Pastor: God has lavished His love upon us by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise again for us all. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, will be our shepherd, and He will guide us to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are God's children, and ours is the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Pastor: "I have heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth.' 'Blessed indeed', says the Spirit, 'that they may rest

from their labors, for their deeds follow them.” In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life, we remember before you, O Lord, all our departed kin and friends who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of your promises...For those of our congregational family who these past twelve months have died in Christ:

Karen Antico	<i>Wife of Bill</i>
Hank Baty	<i>Father of Susan Perkins</i>
May Bible	<i>Mother of Elizabeth & Rick</i>
Spencer Fowler	<i>Husband of Cindy, Father of Andrew & Elizabeth</i>
Teresa Kennedy	<i>Wife of David, Mother of Josh Kunkel & Danielle Kunkel</i>
Evelyn Lines	<i>Mother of Margo Pasha</i>
Kevin Mills	<i>Son of Marie, Father of Brandon & Preston</i>
Jim Reeves	<i>Husband of Millie</i>
Larry Ruggera	<i>Son of Wilma, Husband of Roxan, Father of Christina, Katrina, Danyelle</i>
Bill Siebert	<i>Father of Jeff</i>
Jack Van Pelt	<i>Father of Ginger Glodowske & Jan Buntrock, Grandfather of Randy & Megan</i>
Duane Westra	<i>Husband of Phyllis, Father of Steve, Grandfather of Abby & Sam, Brother of Larry</i>

Pastor: For those who have gone before us,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For those in our extended congregational family who these past twelve months died in Christ:

Bob Bennett	<i>Father of Ann Westra</i>
Ione Branan	<i>Mother of Deb Shiflet</i>
Michelle Burchett	<i>Daughter of Bill</i>
Sunny Carlson	<i>Sister-in-law of Doris</i>
Calvin Crawford	<i>Father of Cindy Fowler</i>
Helen Eckert	<i>Aunt of Ginger Glodowske & Jan Buntrock</i>
Donna Fagan	<i>Mother of J.P.</i>
Trudy Glassett	<i>Friend of Dianne Backhus</i>
Lisa Gray	<i>Sister of Kathy Barnes</i>
Chris Haupt	<i>Cousin of Dave Zeller</i>
Paul Hollrith	<i>Uncle of Sherry Hitztaler</i>
Dorothy Luft	<i>Mother of Jim Mullane</i>
Gordon Mueller	<i>Brother-in-law of Judy Finnessy</i>
Esther Nisbet	<i>Mother of Larry</i>
Jean Olsson	<i>Mother of David</i>
Rick Oldefest	<i>Brother of John Oldefest</i>
Jeanne Sharp	<i>Mother of Sherry Hitztaler</i>
Bob Steinhauser	<i>Cousin of Lorine Grau</i>
Stephanie Stewart	<i>Niece of Joan Fryman</i>

Jay Suebert
Sophie Vergas
John Whitehouse
Tom Zeller
Linda

Uncle of Becky McAvoy
Sister of Pat Lytle, Aunt of Christy Williams
Father of Joyce Lord
Relative of the Bress Family
Cousin of Anita Baresel

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9–17

(Salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb!)

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: 1 John 3:1–3

(Beloved, we are God's children now.)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on 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. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please rise for the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1–12

(Blessed are the poor in spirit.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jenna Lawrenz

HYMN OF THE DAY **FOR ALL THE SAINTS (verses 1-3, 8)**

LSB 677

SERMON "Blessed?"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Matthew 5:1-12

APOSTLES' CREED

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

We share the Lord's peace with one another, saying, "Peace be with you."



OFFERING

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

Ligertwood/Fielding

You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

**CHORUS: What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus**

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now **CHORUS**

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)* *Text found in the back of the Hymnal.*

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

OCEANS

Crocker/Houston

You call me out upon the waters,
The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

**CHORUS: And I will call upon Your name And keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.**

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now. **CHORUS**

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger In the presence of my Savior. **CHORUS**

JESUS

Chris Tomlin

There is a truth older than the ages There is a promise of things yet to come
There is One born for our salvation, Jesus

There is a light that overwhelms the darkness There is a kingdom that forever reigns
There is freedom from the chains that bind us Jesus, Jesus

**CHORUS: Who walks on the waters Who speaks to the sea
Who stands in the fire beside me
He roars like a lion He bled as the Lamb
He carries my healing in His hands, Jesus**

There is a name I call in times of trouble There is a song that comforts in the night
There is a voice that calms the storm that rages He is Jesus Jesus **CHORUS**

Messiah, My Savior There is power in Your name
You're my rock and my Redeemer There is power in Your name In Your name
CHORUS

PROOF OF YOUR LOVE

Lee

If I sing but don't have love
I waste my breathe with every song
I bring an empty voice a hollow noise
If I speak with a silver tongue
and convince a crowd but don't have love
I leave a bitter taste with every word I say

**CHORUS: So let my life be the proof of Your love
So let my love look like You and what You're made of
How You lived how You died Love is sacrifice
So let my life be the proof The proof of Your love**

If I give to a needy soul
but don't have love then who is poor?
It seems all the poverty is found in me **CHORUS**

So let my life be the proof of Your love
So let my love look like You and what You're made of
How You lived how You died Love is sacrifice
So let my life be the proof The proof of Your love

[Bible verse spoken...]

So let my life be the proof of Your love
So let my love look like You and what You're made of
How You lived how You died Love is sacrifice
So let my life be the proof The proof of Your love

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG GOD'S NOT DEAD (LIKE A LION) DANIEL BASHTA

Let love explode and bring the dead to life
A love so bold to see a revolution somehow **REPEAT**

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome

CHORUS: **My God's not dead He's surely alive**
 He's living on the inside roaring like a lion
 God's not dead He's surely alive
 He's living on the inside roaring like a lion,
 Roaring, He's roaring, He's roaring like a lion

Let hope arise and make the darkness hide
My faith is dead I need a resurrection somehow **REPEAT**

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome **CHORUS**

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS



They have washed
their robes
and made them

white
in the
blood
of the
Lamb.

REVELATION 7:14

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
AGAPE PRAISE TEAM

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Brian Johnson, Christa Kirschner, Will Kopriva, Bob Shiflet

ELDER
LECTOR 8:00
 10:30

Scott Luethy
Dennis Lord
Ted Lemke

ACOLYTE 8:00
 10:30

Ian Avedissian
Erik Schwerin

USHERS 8:00
 10:30

Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30
ALTAR GUILD

Flo Westra
Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Dawn Munson, Cathy Utecht

FLOWERS

Gayla Buethe, in celebration of her birthday--TODAY

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