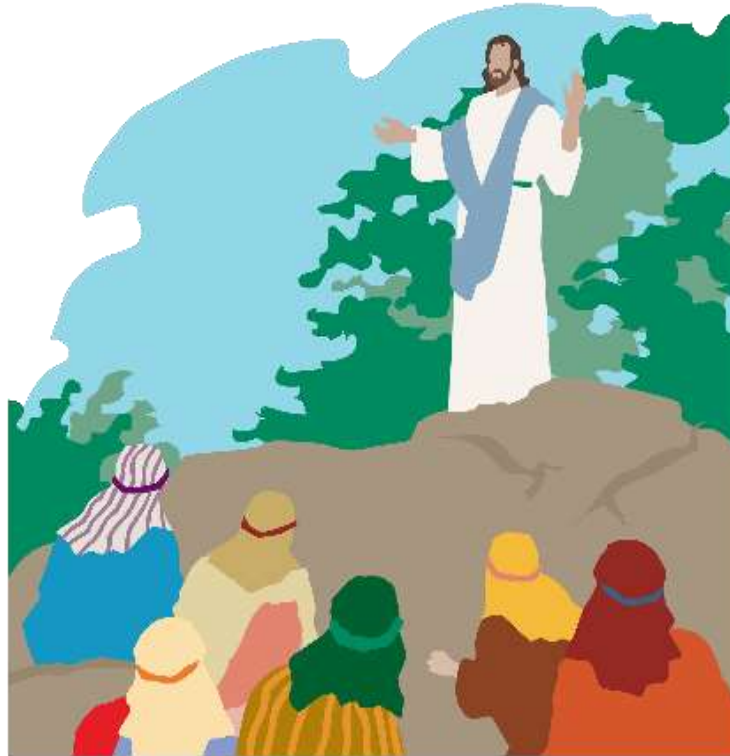


ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

November 4, 2018

8:00 am



ALL SAINTS' DAY

God's Blessed and Beloved Children

AS WE GATHER

This Sunday we observe the feast of All Saints' Day. We focus our eyes heaven-ward to remember those who have already passed from death to life and to focus on our true home which awaits us. 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.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

THREE MEDITATIONS ON ALL SAINTS DAY

“Komm Süßer Tod” (Come Sweet Death)

J.S. Bach

“Gottes Zeit is die allerbeste Zeit” (God’s Time is the Best Time)

J.S. Bach

“For All the Saints”

Michael Burkhardt

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL *Congregation, please stand.*

HYMN “Alabaré”

LSB 799

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 ✠

HYMN "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White"

LSB 676

Verses 1-3

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have lavished a great love upon Your children from every nation, tribe, and language. Show us mercy and comfort, Lord, as we mourn those saints who have gone before us in the faith, so that we continue to share Your love with all nations, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 and 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	<i>Uncle of Becky McAvoy</i>
Sophie Vergas	<i>Sister of Pat Lytle, Aunt of Christy Williams</i>
John Whitehouse	<i>Father of Joyce Lord</i>
Tom Zeller	<i>Relative of the Bress Family</i>
Linda	<i>Cousin of Anita Baresel</i>

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.



**See what love the
Father has given us,
that we should be
called children of God.**

1 John 3:1, NRSV



Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia Verse and the Gospel.

VERSE *Hebrews 12:1a, 2a*

Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.

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.**

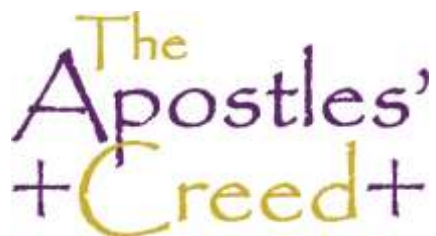
HYMN OF THE DAY "For All the Saints"
(Verses 1-3, 7-8)

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

Matthew 5:3–9

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, in this world we are often overwhelmed by the difficulties of life, yet You have promised that in Your heavenly kingdom there will be no more hunger or thirst, no more scorching heat, and no more tears. Strengthen us to keep turning to You in the midst of struggle, for You say, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,

People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Pastor: Lord, death remains a curse until Christ comes again. On this All Saints’ Day, we remember all who have died in the faith. For You say, “Blessed are those who mourn,

People: for they shall be comforted.”

Pastor: Lord, this world is filled with power-hungry, prideful people who seek to rule the earth without any thought of You or care for Your creation. Keep us faithful to Your kingdom so that we do not run after the false gods of power and prestige, for You say, “Blessed are the meek,

People: for they shall inherit the earth.”

Pastor: Lord, send healing to all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Also, Lord, encourage those who struggle to belong in our society, including addicts, immigrants, refugees, those with mental and physical disabilities, and the poor, for You say, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

People: for they shall be satisfied.”

Pastor: Lord, we live in a world of cruelty and indifference, but You have called us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light so that we might love our families and friends, our neighbors and enemies. Cheer the hearts of all those who show mercy to others, for You say, “Blessed are the merciful,

People: for they shall receive mercy.”

Pastor: Lord, protect those who cannot protect themselves, including children, the elderly, and those with disabilities, for You say, “Blessed are the pure in heart,

People: for they shall see God.”

Pastor: Lord, break and hinder the plans of Satan, for he always seeks division, war, and conflict in this world. Raise up those who will work for reconciliation and harmony, for You say, “Blessed are the peacemakers,

People: for they shall be called sons of God.”

Pastor: . . . *Other intercessions may be added here.* Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: Amen.

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

OFFERTORY "Down by the Riverside" arr. John Rutter
Piano: Diana Gaide; Drum Set: Ross Coons

(The text of this song speaks of the "war" we endure on earth as we struggle against sin and the effects of sin in our relationships. In Scripture, heaven is often described as "what it is not." It is not a place of death, suffering, pain, etc. So in heaven, we "ain't gonna study war no more" as there will be no more war or struggle against sin and its effects!)

Please join us in singing the Last Verse

Choir: I'm gonna lay down my heavy load, Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, Down by the riverside ,
I'm gonna lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside I ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more...

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, Down by the riverside,
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield,
Down by the riverside And I ain't gonna study, war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more...

I'm goin' to put on my trav'lin' shoes, Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, Down by the riverside,
I'm goin' to put on my trav'lin' shoes,
Down by the riverside, And I ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more...

I'm goin' to put on my long white robe, Down by the riverside, Down by the
riverside, Down by the riverside.
I'm goin' to put on my long white robe,
Down by the riverside, And I ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more...

**ALL: I'm goin' to put on my starry crown, Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside,
I'm goin' to put on my starry crown,
Down by the riverside, And I ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more...**

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.

Communing TOGETHER



✠ 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.

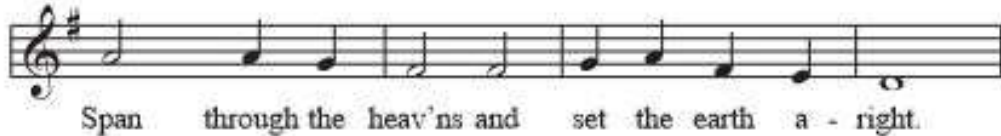
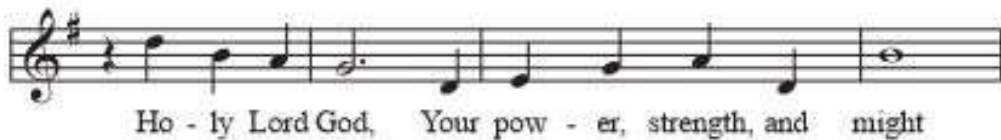
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us His beloved children. We are blessed because Christ came down to share His kingdom with us, the poor in spirit. He will bring us into His kingdom of abundance and rejoicing, where we will see Him as He is. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Andrew R. Jones SINE NOMINE
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958



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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

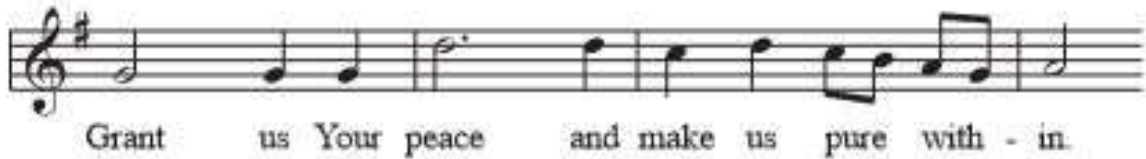
LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)* *Text found in the back of the Hymnal.*

Agnus Dei

SINE NOMINE

Andrew R. Jones

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“An die Musik” (“To Music”)

Franz Schubert, arr. Kellermeyer
Gloria Dei Ringers

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

“Jerusalem, the Golden”

LSB 672

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

LSB 673

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.**

HYMN “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

LSB 670

(Verses 1, 3-4)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SONGS

"Praise Him"

"Be Strong and Courageous"

Eli Faulk, congas

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE

"Hallelujah Chorus" (From Messiah)

G.F. Handel

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT

Pastor John Larson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Michael Zehnder

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

Diana Gaide

YOUTH BAND

Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Brian Johnson, Christa Kirschner, Will Kopriva, Bob Shiflet

ELDER

Scott Luethy

LECTOR

8:00

Dennis Lord

10:30

Ted Lemke

ACOLYTE

8:00

Ian Avedissian

10:30

Erik Schwerin

USHERS

8:00

Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation

10:30

Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER

10:30

Flo Westra

ALTAR GUILD

Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Dawn Munson, Cathy Utecht

FLOWERS

Gayla Buethe, in celebration of her birthday--TODAY

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