

# *All Saints Sunday*

## *November 1, 2020*



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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. We have closed the Sanctuary to the general public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com)

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Worship Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Worship Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Worship Leader: Faithful God,

**Congregation: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Worship Leader: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: God forgives you of all of your sins. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

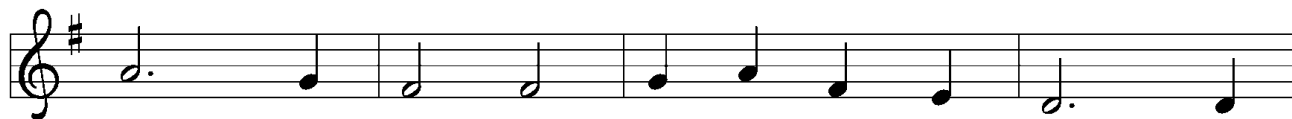
**Congregation: Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

### *For All the Saints vs. 1 & 2*



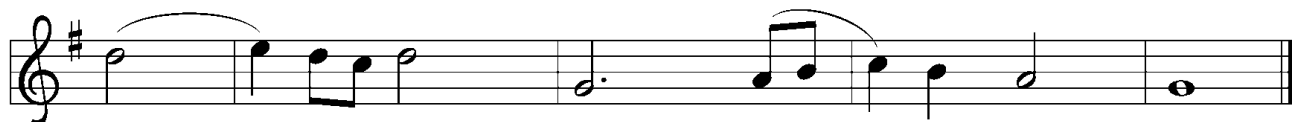
1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy  
Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; . .



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
thou, in the darkness dread, their one true light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Music from *The English Hymnal* outside the USA © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Worship Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

**Congregation: 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.**

## FIRST READING

## Revelation 7:9-17

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: <sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup>And 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, <sup>12</sup>singing,

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

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I 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 made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For 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.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for 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.”

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 46

*The psalm for the day is read responsively.*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

**<sup>2</sup>I will glory in the LORD;  
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's name together.

**<sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, who answered me  
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

<sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**<sup>6</sup>I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me  
and saved me from all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD  
and delivers them.

**<sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

<sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,  
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

**<sup>10</sup>The lions are in want and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

## **SECOND READING                      1 John 3:1-3**

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: [John writes:] <sup>1</sup>See 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. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

## **Matthew 5:1-12**

Introduction to the Gospel: *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.*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 5th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Worship Leader: <sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*After the reading...*

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons**

### **Blessed Are You**

When Jesus sits on the mountain and begins his long sermon in Matthew's gospel, he begins with these statements of blessing. Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and so on. Jesus speaks of the positive outcomes of these conditions: they will be comforted, they will inherit the earth, they will be filled. “Blessed are you now,” Jesus is saying, as well as “Blessed you will be.”

God's promises are for today as much as they are for after we die. We trust that baptized into a death like Jesus' death, we are also baptized into a resurrection like Jesus' resurrection. In baptism we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Proclaimed on a mountain or in

the valleys that can come in daily life, our identity as blessed, baptized saints moves us to live in ways that give thanks to God for God's many gifts and blessings.

All Saints Day isn't just about remembering those who have died and whose names may be read during worship today. All Saints Day is about all the saints, the ones who have gone before, those living now, and those still to come. Today we remember with thanksgiving our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died within the past year, and we also give thanks for the saints who labor and worship on this side of heaven's gate.

Today we recall and celebrate with those who have gone before us as we gather at the font and the table, where in water and word, wine and bread, God reminds us, "Blessed are you." We are blessed, and so we live in ways that manifest this blessing for and toward others.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Jesus Loves Me*

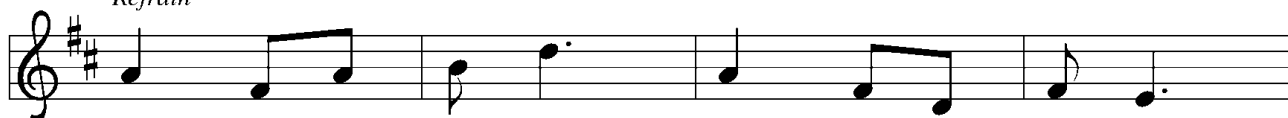


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

#### *Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: 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.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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 (*especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia & family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, Rose Marie Piff, Gary Mostrum, Vicki Kennedy, Gail Elder, Valerie Smutko, Jason Meadows, Lisa & Ty Hauschild, Bishop Pedro Suarez, Pastor Courtney Erzkus and family, Ralph Burson, Luanne Sekel, Lorraine Chavez, Seve Chacon, Pat Fredell, Skylar Favos, Marcos de Souza Lima, Maria de Nazare & Michele Rios, Steve Murray and his mom, Ellen Duncan, and all those suffering from natural disasters [including all those affected by COVID-19; and Western wildfires], from violence, & terror, and the family & friends of the 221,000+ people in the US & the 1,120,000+ people worldwide who have died from COVID-19). Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod, especially Castle Church. Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**



*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Prayer Leader: 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 (*The names of members, former members and friends of Grace are read, followed by the tolling of the Memorial Garden bell. Then the names of those who have died from COVID-19 of whose families and friends we have prayed are read. Then the names of others who have died of whose families and friends we have prayed are read*). In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com) (look for the "Donate" button), or by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. **You can also fill out your attendance form on our website.***

## OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities & in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: 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.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Worship Leader: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**Congregation: we give you thanks and praise.**

Worship Leader: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**Congregation: we give you thanks and praise.**

Worship Leader: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**Congregation: we give you thanks and praise.**

Worship Leader: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

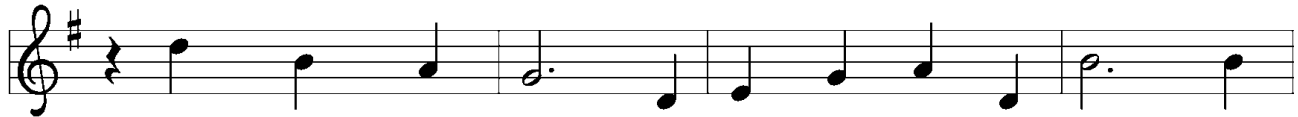
## **BLESSING**

Worship Leader: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will

be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.  
**Congregation: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

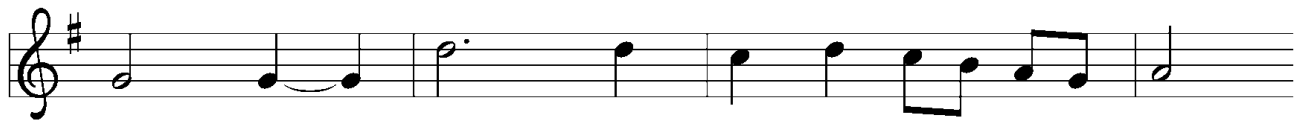
*For All the Saints vs. 6 & 7*



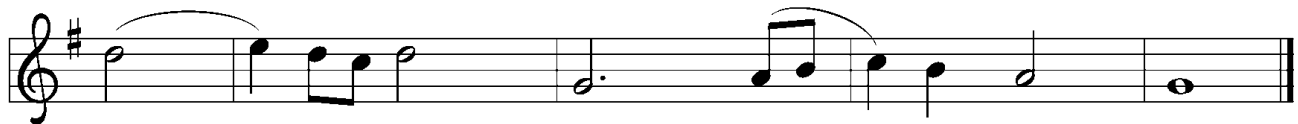
1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,  
*Stanzas 3-5 below.*  
 6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the  
 7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy  
 Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; . .  
 saints triumphant rise in bright array; the  
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host, . .



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
 thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
 King of glory passes on his way.  
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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## **DISMISSAL**

Worship Leader: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now our service of worship has ended, and our service to the world begins! Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

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