



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Your Future Is Bright and Glorious

Thursday & Sunday, October 31 & November 3, 2024

As We Gather

We are reminded that this gathering is in truth a far greater assemblage than the number of people in this room at this time. The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as we journey through our earthly lives we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses” (12:1) and tells of “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” and “the spirits of the righteous made perfect” (12:23). Hymn writer Isaac Watts reminds us that “the saints on earth and those above but one communion make; joined to their Lord in bonds of love, all of His grace partake” (TLH 478:1). With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the faith that binds us together with the faithful of all times!

10:45 AM Pre-Service Song “Great Is The Lord”

6:30 PM & 8:15 AM Opening Hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” *LSB 657 sts. 1–4*

10:45 AM Opening Song “Awesome God”

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Psalm 34:1, 3, 8–9;*

P: Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

C: For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.

P: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

P: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

C: Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved of God, we rejoice to be numbered with the saints. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution.

C: Almighty God, we repent of our sins—the inherited sinfulness that is our original condition and our manifold sins in thought and in word and in deed. In Your mercy, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we may serve You as Your redeemed people, now and forever.

P: Because of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sins of all people, God has promised His forgiveness. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you

ever live as the saints with a bright and glorious future that you are in Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

Saints Celebration *Part 1*

P: The words of the Lutheran Confessions give three specific reasons for remembering and honoring the saints. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession states: “Our Confession approves honoring the saints in three ways. The first is thanksgiving. We should thank God because He has shown examples of mercy, because He wishes to save people, and because He has given teachers and other gifts to the Church” (Ap XXI 4). Some of the saints listed in the commemorations section of the hymnal lived long earthly lives. Others, especially some of the martyrs who died on account of their faith in the first centuries of the Christian Church, did not. Today we bring to our remembrance someone old and someone young from the legions of saints from past centuries.

Reader 1: St. Polycarp, who was born less than four decades after Jesus ascended into heaven, had a long and impactful ministry. As a young man, he knew and studied under St. John, the disciple of Jesus. For over fifty years, he cared for the church at Smyrna, which is now in the land of Turkey. During the time of his leadership, there was continuing persecution of Christians by the governing authorities. During the time when Marcus Aurelius was Roman Emperor, Polycarp was arrested and taken to the local stadium, where he was ordered to renounce his faith in Christ. In response to that order, Polycarp replied: “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong, and can I revile my king that saved me?” St. Polycarp, whose name translates as “much fruit” labored fruitfully for his Lord. He is remembered as a martyr on the church calendar each year on February 23.

Reader 2: St. Katherine of Alexandria lived in Egypt in the last years of the third century and the first years of the fourth. Raised in a wealthy and educated family, she came to know of

Jesus through her course of studies as a teenager. Although by this time in history Roman state persecution of Christians was subsiding, there were still times when admitting to being a follower of Jesus Christ could bring a sentence of death. Courageously confessing her firmly held belief, Katherine went before the Roman Emperor Maxentius and requested that the persecutions and executions of Christian people for their faith stop. Refusing to give up her faith, Katherine calmly faced a prison sentence that was ultimately followed by her execution. During her time of captivity she continued her Christian witness, leading to the conversion of soldiers sent to guard her and scholars sent to dissuade her from her beliefs and even the empress, who had come to visit her. In the book of Revelation, St. John gave these words of encouragement from the Lord: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (2:10). From her few years of earthly life, Katherine left a lasting spiritual legacy.

P: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

C: For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.

✠ **WORD** ✠

Introit

C: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Women: In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in Your righteousness deliver me. For You are my rock and my fortress; and for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me.

Men: Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be

forever. Amen. These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

6:30 PM & 8:15 AM Hymn of Praise “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” *LSB* 549; sts. 1-2, 7

10:45 AM Song of Praise “More Love, More Power”

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...In His abiding name, we pray. **C: Amen.**

First Reading *Revelation 7: (2–8) 9–17*

(after the reading)...L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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L: Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 5:1–12*

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord. *(after the reading)*...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message & Celebrate Song

6:30 PM & 8:15 AM Hymn of the Day “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *LSB* 686

10:45 AM Sermon Song “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”

Sermon

Saints Celebration *Part 2*

P: Two other reasons for commemorating the saints noted in the Lutheran Confessions are the strengthening of our faith and the imitation, first of faith, then of other virtues. The calendar of the saints includes both men and women from every era of history and from many lands. So now we meet one saints:

Reader 1: Often showing up first on an alphabetical list of the saints, Ambrose lived in northern Italy in the fourth century.

As a child, he proudly announced on one occasion, "I shall one day be bishop." His studies and experiences, however, took his life in a different direction and eventually he became a governor in northern Italy, ruling from the city of Milan. When the local bishop of that region died, conflict broke out in Milan between two possible successors. When crowds of supporters of both sides gathered in conflict in the city center, Ambrose, as governor, went to keep order. The result of his peace-keeping efforts was that he was acclaimed as bishop by the crowd. He was the right man at the right time. He served the people and congregations at Milan tirelessly for almost a quarter of a century and used all his talents in the service of the Lord.

P: The LORD is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed.

C: Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

Nicene Creed

Commemoration of the Saints

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise and thanksgiving forever. God gave new life to them through Holy Baptism, nourished them in the company of His people at His Holy Table and in His mercy summoned them to His eternal presence so that they may continue to serve Him forever.

In joyful anticipation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, O Lord, those relatives, friends, and fellow members of this congregation who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promises that where You are, there Your servants shall be also. Bless the memories of the saints among us and keep us firm in the certain hope of the great reunion to come in Your gracious eternal kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P: *(after each petition)*...Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Offering & Attendance / Involvement Cards

Preface

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You...one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

Distribution

6:30 PM & 8:15 AM Distribution Hymns "Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds" *LSB* 867 and "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower" *LSB* 694

10:45 AM Communion Songs "Give Thanks" and "Create In Me"

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Saints Celebration Part 3

P: In the book of Revelation, the description of the company of heaven is one that includes “every tribe and language and people and nation.” That amazing and diverse group of individuals will include many saints we know today by name and reputation as their stories are passed from generation to generation. There will be others who were forgotten on earth but will certainly be fully known in the bright and glorious company of the blessed that is heaven.

P: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

C: For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever. Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

P: Acknowledging the gifts to us through anonymous saints of all centuries we offer praise to God in our prayer.

Closing Prayer

P: Eternal Father, You have shown to us, in the words of Jesus Christ, Your Son, the way of those who are truly blessed. Grant us grace to live out our days as Your people who walk in ways of meekness and faith, following the path of our Lord and imitating the faith and virtues of the saints in our lifetimes. Send Your Holy Spirit to direct and counsel us in all things and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Christ, we pray. **C: Amen.**

Benediction

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

6:30 PM & 8:15 AM Closing Hymn “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” LSB 761

10:45 AM Closing Song “I’ll Fly Away”