Introduction to the day: 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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The congregation invited to stand as they are able and face the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.
We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger.
We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice.
Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need.
Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for + Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

Amen.

Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.

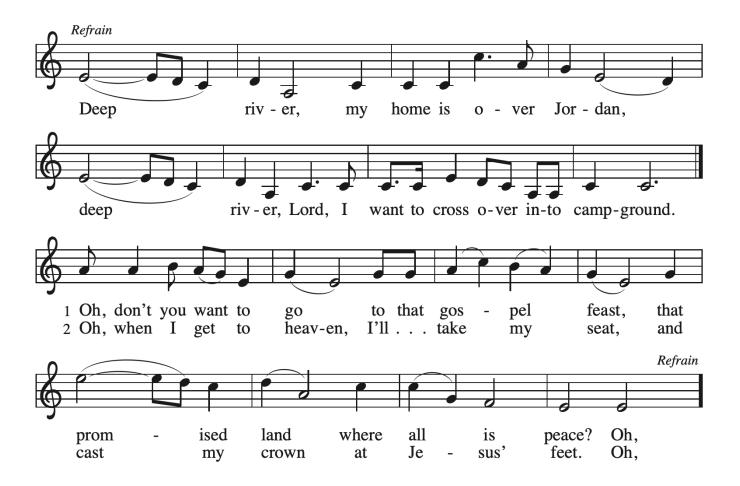


GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE Deep River (ACS 951)

Words and Music on Next Page



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9 (Linda Dunn)

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.

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over all nations:

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.

⁹It 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 24 (Linda Dunn)

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

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

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

⁴Those of innocent hands and purity of heart,

who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by what is false.

⁵They shall receive blessing from the LORD

and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD,

of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

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

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory? Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a (Linda Dunn)

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.

A reading from Revelation.

¹I 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. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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;

⁴he 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."

⁵And 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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

STEWARDSHIP TEMPLE TALK (Terri Larson)

KIDS' MESSAGE (Lisa Herlocker)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL: John 11:32-44 (Pastor Carolyn)

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

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The 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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON (Pastor Carolyn)

HYMN OF THE DAY Baptized in Water (ELW 456)



CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Linda Dunn)

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away. Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box

God who gives us strength and comfort, we give thanks for the saints who have been our family, friends, and colleagues who have loved us and encouraged us to be our better selves. We lift up (non-congregational members who have died during this past year) Give us peace and comfort in their memories until we are reunited in your holy kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us. Thank you so much for your continued support.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God,

the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

With all the saints of Africa and Asia, India and the islands, Europe and the Americas,

we praise you, O God, for you create the worlds.

With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten, we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food.

With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present,

we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations.

With all your holy people, those who ministered in the church, those who served the poor, and all who walked the way of the cross,

we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth.

With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son:

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saving:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With Peter and all the martyrs, we honor Christ's death, saying Amen. Amen!

With Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, we proclaim his resurrection, shouting Amen. **Amen!** With John and all the theologians and mystics, we look for his returning, pleading Amen. **Amen!** With the Virgin Mary and all who sang of your greatness,

we pray for the power of the Spirit.

Visit this gathering, this bread and this cup,

with the presence of the body and blood of Christ.

Form us into a communion of service,

and infuse your earth with the wholeness we seek.

With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal,

and especially with those who now rest in your arms,

lead us to a future we cannot yet see,

and at the end draw all humanity to yourself.

Now with all of the family you saved by your love,

we shout blessing blessing, glory glory, wisdom wisdom, thanksgiving thanksgiving, honor honor, power power, might might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen. Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of the language of your heart.

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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

If you are joining us online, you are welcome to take communion in your home or to be in a time of prayer.

If you are worshiping with us onsite, please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

Amen.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

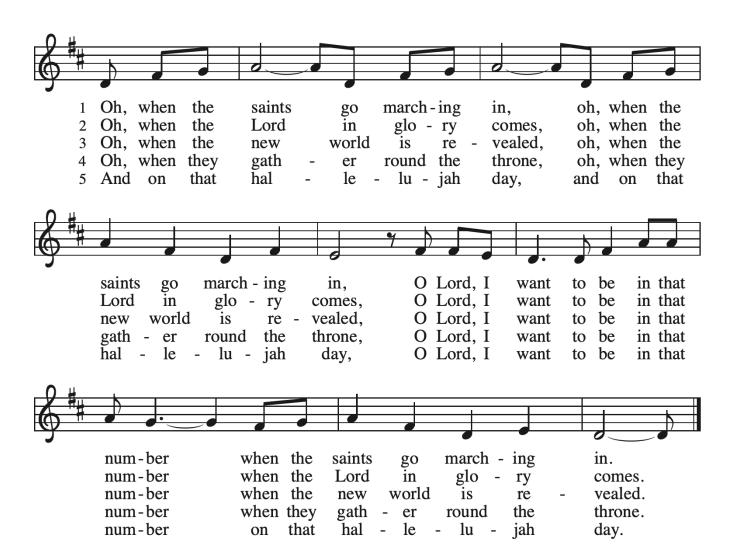
BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, the bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

SENDING SONG Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In (ACS 950)

Words and Music on Next Page



Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel, the congregation is invited to stand and face the baptismal font as they are able.

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God and we will.