

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:12

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

All Saints Sunday – November 5, 2023

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411 Mars, PA 16046-0411

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.

All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. Visitor information cards and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.

At the time of **Holy Communion**, all are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a restroom, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

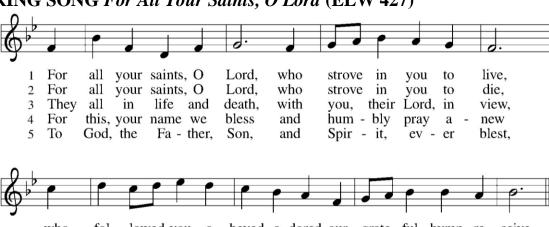
* GREETING

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.

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest." In the same breath we ask God for the strength to hear and to heed the call of Jesus in today's gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's glory.

*GATHERING SONG For All Your Saints, O Lord (ELW 427)



who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a-dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive. who you their great re-ward, ac - cept our count-ed thank - ful cry. do. learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to that like them in ho - li - ness may live die and in you. the One Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your beloved children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

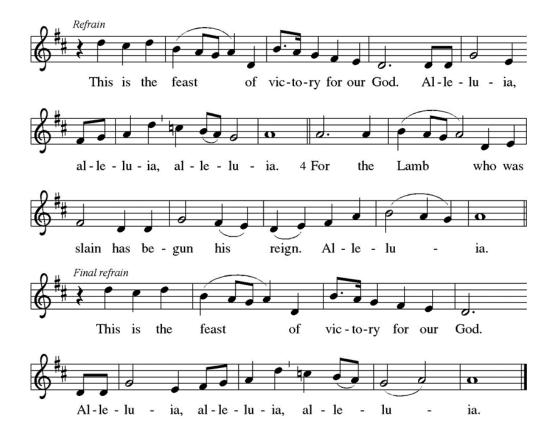
Remembering the gift of baptism and God's promise to hear us when we cry, let us lift our voices asking for God's mercy on our ministry and on our world.

*KYRIE



*THIS IS THE FEAST





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

A reading from Revelation.

⁹After 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. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

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

¹¹And 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, ¹²singing,

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

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁵For 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.

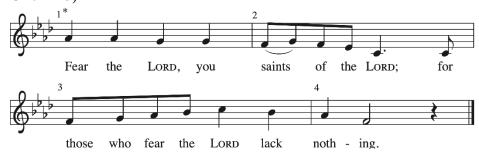
¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22



¹I will bless the LORD at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

²I will glory in the LORD;

let the lowly hear | and rejoice. R

³Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD; let us exalt God's | name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, who | answered me and delivered me from | all my terrors.

⁵Look upon the LORD and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

 6 I called in my affliction, and $^{|}$ the LORD heard me and saved me from $^{|}$ all my troubles. R

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD and de-| livers them.

⁸Taste and see that the | LORD is good; happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD, for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰The lions are in want and | suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. **R**

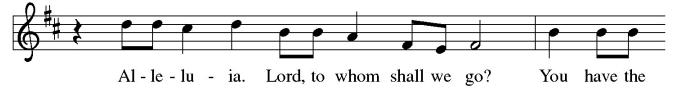
SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from 1 John.

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

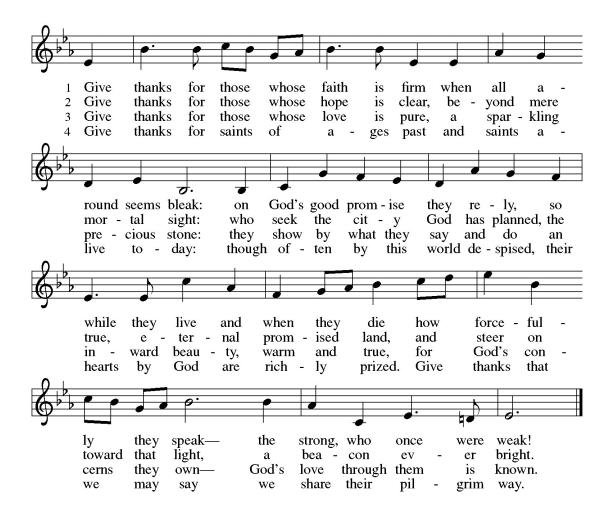
Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY Give Thanks for Saints (ELW 428)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



*REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors.

We remember...

...teachers and storytellers who made God's stories come alive for us and

We give thanks!

We remember...

...choir member, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises and **We give thanks!**

We remember...

...preachers and lay leaders who led our worship through the years and

We give thanks!

We remember...

... friends and family who sat with us at worship and lived out their faith all week long and **We give thanks!**

We remember...

... all those who have held us in love and care and showed us Christ's love in this world and **We give thanks!**

We remember...

...our ancestors in the faith whose courage enables us to be here today. For our siblings in the faith whose names are remembered only by God **We give thanks!**

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come:

We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. Remembering that, through our baptism, we are bound to Christ in life, death and resurrection, we use the flame from the Paschal candle to light a candle for each name. Three larger candles are also lit for all whose lives on earth have slipped away quietly without the world noticing.

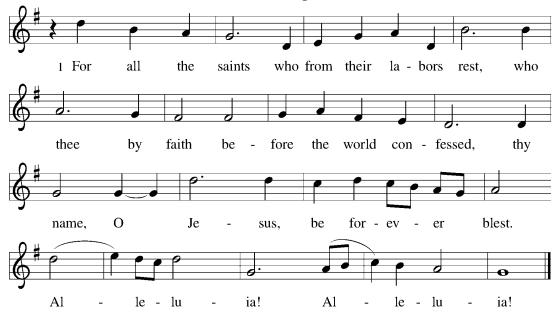
God of life, we remember and give thanks for:

Denise Rightmyer	'	Ralph Storm
	+	

John Andro Agnes and Art Pallen Lois Hajduk Wayne and Elizabeth Viola Hausler John R Pendo Bailey Fred Hausler, Jr. Richard Rounce and Burt and Jane Ann Bishop Florence Rounce Fred C. Hausler, Sr. **David Schuster** David Bishop William and Laura Harry and Nancy Bratchie Hespenheide George Senka John, Virginia, and Jack Waldo and Edna Gay Gary Kalkbrenner Smallwood Closshey Henry A. Knauff **Bob Cole** Len Stang Clara Mae Knauff Larry Collins Ruth Stang Henry Knauff Jean and James Crislip Harold Stang Frank Lindauer Martha D'Amico Rita Steinmetz Aiden Lutz Charles and Irene Davidson Nancy Torpey John and Emma Maguire Wally Diethorn Raymond and Ethel Tully James Marshall Loyal and Leona Ferguson Michael and Margaret Doris and Harold Tully Cliff and Dorothy Foster **McCandless** James Ward Tom McKeon Jeffrey Foster Frances and Margaret Catherine Franze Marie McKeon Ward Rita Gentner Hilda Mechler **Bart Ward** Ruth Goedert Bea Mohr Andy Wenger Gail Gross Delores Nelson Irvine and Imogene Werner Chris and Margaret Gurtner Frank and Andrea **Charles Grant Werner Niklewicz** Paul Gurtner Hazel and Pete Wilson **Doris Niklewicz** Bud and Peg Hager Anne and Charles Leland and Helen Hager

Olescyski

As we remember these your children, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more.



*NICENE CREED

Together, with the whole church, with the saints among us today, and with the saints who have died before us in faith, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the	life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need. A brief silence for reflection

Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, those on our prayer list, and all whom we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy comforter, we pray for this congregation, that the promise of your new life may be shared and experienced. We pray for the funeral ministry of this congregation, that families and friends seeking your love find it here. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks. We remember their witness of faithfulness and love. Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathered together in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we lift up the prayers on the hearts of this congregation this day (*received prayer cards are read*). Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN Sing with All the Saints in Glory (ELW 426) rise on 3rd vs.



- 1 Sing with all the saints in glo-ry, sing the res-ur-rec-tion song!
- Oh, what glo-ry, far ex-ceed-ing all that eye has yet per-ceived!
- 3 Life e ter nal! heav'n re joic es: Je sus lives who once was dead.



Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry, to the for -mer days be - long. Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead-ing nev - er that full joy con-ceived. Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es! Child of God, lift up your head!



All a-round the clouds are break-ing, soon the storms of time shall cease; God has prom-ised, Christ pre-pares it, there on high our wel-come waits. Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won-ders crowd on faith; what joy un-known,



in God's like - ness we a - wak - en, know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace. Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e-ter - nal gates. when, a - mid earth's clos-ing thun-ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

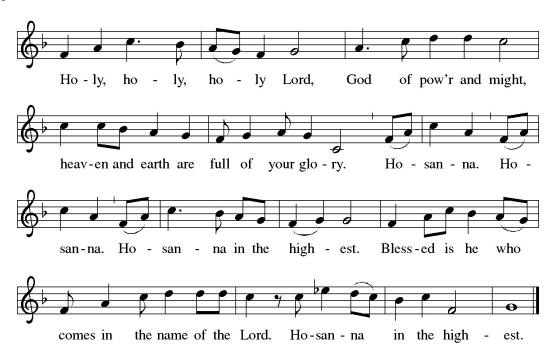
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints, you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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, saying: 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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

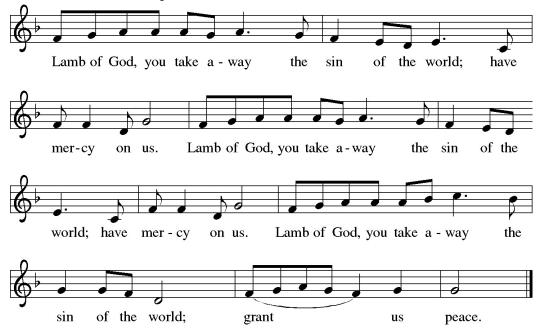
* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Those who do not receive the elements of bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



COMMUNION HYMN What Wondrous Love is This (ELW 666)



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

*BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made,

who claims us and calls us beloved,

who strengthens us for service,

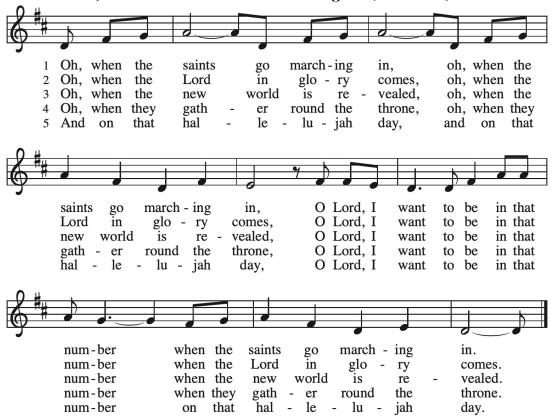
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,

Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

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



*DISMISSAL

John 8:31b-32a

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

[&]quot;Jesus said,

^{&#}x27;If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth.""

The flowers on the altar today are from Bob and Sherry Davidson in celebration of their 46th Wedding Anniversary.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer

Acolyte: Abigail C Usher: Larry Werner

Greeters:

Offering: Ava N and Emma N

Attendance Last Week: 59 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

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. Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come. We give thanks for the examples of faithful living that the saints have given us as they navigated the ups and downs of life, and also for the faithful acts of service we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit to do in our own lives. We give thanks, too, for the fullness of eternal life in which the saints of God who have gone before us now partake and which we have yet to fully enjoy.

Today's Music

For All Your Saints, O Lord. Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, alt., Music: William H. Walter, 1825–1893. Public Domain. Give Thanks for Saints. Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, b. 1962, Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918. Kevin Mayhew Publishers /Public Domain.

Sing with All the Saints in Glory. Text: William J. Irons, 1812–1883, alt., Music: William Bradley Roberts, b. 1947. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

What Wonderous Love is This. Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt., Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In. Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version. Augsburg Fortress.

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Next Week's Readings

Amos 5:18-24 Let justice roll down like waters
Psalm 70 You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The promise of the resurrection
Matthew 25:1-13 The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids