

# **THE FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS**

**Saturday, October 31, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**4101 Washington Street NE**

**Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

**+ CONNECT +**

## **INVOCATION:**

**L:** Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY:**

**L:** Tonight we are celebrating All Saints' Day, on which we give thanks "for all the saints who from their labors rest," those who have gone before us in faith. By definition, a saint is anyone looked on as holy by God, and we who have faith in Christ here on earth are already declared by God to be His saints. Indeed, He calls us His children. Knowing the eternal "end of the story" gives us hope in our daily walk through life. That hope is summarized in our Epistle.

## **EPISTLE LESSON: I John 3:1-3**

See what great 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 Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

## **CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

**L:** Confident of the promises of our loving, heavenly Father, let us confess our sins:

**C:** **You have called us your children and that is what we are, gracious Lord. Every day that we live, we live as children of God. Yet our doing does not always reflect our being. We need forgiveness. We need renewal. We need mercy and grace. So we repent, Lord. We confess our sinfulness to you and ask for forgiveness for Jesus' sake, Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

### **OPENING HYMN: "For All the Saints"**

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
All who by faith before the world confessed,  
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
You, in the darkness drear, Their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one within your great design. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **We sing those great words, Lord, and we can almost taste resurrection. Almost. Empower us today, Father, to set aside the chains that keep us from living fully in the reality of resurrection. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

+ NURTURE +

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

##### FIRST LESSON: Revelation 7:9-17

L: 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 before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

C: **"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."**

L: 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:

C: **"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"**

L: Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered,

C: **"Sir, you know."**

L: 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 shelter them with his presence.

**C:** **'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on 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.'**"

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL:**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter five.

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord!**

L: Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**C:** **For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

L: Blessed are those who mourn,

**C:** **For they will be comforted.**

L: Blessed are the meek,

**C:** **For they will inherit the earth.**

L: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**C:** **For they will be filled.**

L: Blessed are the merciful,

**C:** **For they will be shown mercy.**

L: Blessed are the pure in heart,

**C:** **For they will see God.**

L: Blessed are the peacemakers,

**C:** **For they will be called children of God.**

L: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

**C:** **For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

L: Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

**C:** **Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,**

L: For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** **Praise to You, O Christ!**

# SONG OF THE DAY: "Blest Are They"



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it;  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . .  
 3 Blest are they . . . . who show mer - cy;  
 4 Blest are they . . . . who seek peace; . . . .  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . .



theirs is the king - dom of God.  
 they shall in - her - it the earth.  
 mer - cy shall . . . be theirs.  
 they are the chil - dren of God.  
 all . . . be - cause . . . of me. Re -



Blest are they . . . . full . . . . of sor - row; . . .  
 Blest are they who hun - ger and thirst; . . . .  
 Blest are they, the pure . . . . of heart . . . .  
 Blest are they who suf - fer in faith; the  
 joyce, be glad, . . . . yours is the king - dom; . . .



they . . . . shall be con - soled.  
 they . . . . shall have their fill.  
 they . . . . shall see God!  
 glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 shine . . . . for all to see.



*Refrain*  
 Re - joice and be glad!



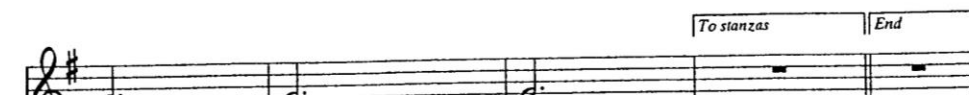
Bless - ed are you,



ho - ly are you. Re - joice and be



glad! Yours is the king - dom of



God!

To stanzas | End

**MESSAGE:** “Being Resurrected” – Pastor Bill Hugo

**COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:**

L: Let us 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 continue to serve Him forever.

*(We remember by name those individuals who have died since last All Saints’ Day, and other loved ones)*

L: In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, O Lord, these 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 promise that where You are, there Your servants shall be also.

**RESPONSE:** “These Are the Ones Coming Out of the Great Tribulation”  
Solo by Brenda Hugo

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ EMPOWER +

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

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

C: **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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING SONG: “Because He Lives”**

**REFRAIN: Because He lives I can face tomorrow.  
Because He lives all fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.**

**God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal, and forgive.  
He lived and died to buy my pardon;  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives! REFRAIN:**

**And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain.  
And then as death gives way to vict'ry  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives. REFRAIN (X2):**

*(Copyright 1971 William J. Gaither, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

**+ + +**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**Lay Minister:** Jim Geslin

**Altar Guild:** Pat & Duane Rosenberg