



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD)

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**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Trinity—All Saints' Sunday — [St. Michael's Tide]**

**"The Blessedness of the Saints of God"** 05 November 2017

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [St. Matthew 5.4]

**Welcome to Faith! God's House is your home.** The members of Faith Lutheran are glad to have you join us as we gather around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here is where we find our source of forgiveness and life before God. It is our prayer that you also may rejoice in the precious message of the Gospel of our Lord: *"But God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us with such a great love. He made us who were dead in sins alive with Christ. You have been saved by grace"* (Eph. 2. 4, 5). Visitors, please be sure to sign the Guest Book in the entry. Pastor Grabenhofer stands ready to serve you in any way consistent with his office.

**ORDER OF SERVICE—Order of Holy Communion—hymnal pg. 15**

**THE PREPARATION**

Pre-service prayers (hymnal pg. 4; 102-109; 118; 170)

Hymn #463 [1-5] For All the Saints Who From Their Labors Rest

**At the final stanza, the congregation faces the processional crucifix as it enters**

Invocation hymnal pg. 15

Confession/ Absolution pg. 15-16

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD—Jesus comes with His word to enlighten us**

Introit: (Revelation 12.11; Psalm 89. 1, 5, 15-17)

P: The saints overcame the accuser by the blood of the Lamb, and they did not love their lives to the death.

**C: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

P: And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; Your faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints.

**C: Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance.**

P: In Your name they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted.

**C: For You are the glory of their strength, and in Your favor our horn is exalted.**

*Gloria Patri* [Glory to the Father]

pg. 16

Hymn #475 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Salutation/ Collect

pg. 19

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Epistle—Revelation 7. 9-17**

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen." <sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup>And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>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 dwell among them. <sup>16</sup>They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Gradual: (Psalm 34.9, 10b; Mt. 11.28)

P: Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!

**C: Those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.**

P: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**C: Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Hallelujah!**

Triple Hallelujah pg. 20

**Gospel—Matthew 5. 1-12 pg. 21**

<sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons 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 others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Nicene Creed pg. 22

**Hymn #471 Hark! The Sound of Holy Voices**

Sermon— St. Matthew 5.4

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*

1. Mourning
2. Comfort

*[Silence for meditation]*

Offertory pg. 22  
Offering

**Stewardship Thought: St. Matthew 5:7** *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”* This is one of many Bible passages that remind us that we reap what we sow. Likewise, what God puts into us (His own love, mercy, kindness, and generosity) – flows back out of us. For it all starts with His self-giving!

The Prayer of the Church:

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

For the poor in spirit, who gather this day to receive the grace and mercy by which we are made rich in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who mourn, that they may receive abundant comfort in the promises of Jesus Christ, who makes all things new, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the meek, including all who patiently and lovingly speak the Gospel to others, that the Holy Spirit may work through the Word they speak to create faith in many who will inherit the new creation in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, that in faithfulness they may approach the altar, trusting the words of Christ, to receive His body and blood for the sustenance of their bodies and souls, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the merciful, including the pastors and teachers who speak of God’s mercy to His people, that they may remain steadfast in the Word and live in the mercy they proclaim, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peacemakers, including all in authority, that they may be blessed in working toward peace, especially that the peace of God in Christ may continue to be proclaimed freely, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, that they may be upheld and strengthened in the one true faith even in the face of suffering, and that all God’s people may boldly confess the name of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and the recovering, that they may be granted health and healing according to God’s wisdom, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all the saints who rest from their labors, especially Florine and Walt, that we may remember them with thanksgiving and joy, even as we look forward to seeing them again at the throne of the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all this and for whatsoever else You know that we need, we ask of Your great mercy, O Lord. Salvation belongs to You who sits on the throne and to the Lamb! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Jesus comes to nourish us with His Body and Blood*

Preface	pg. 24-25
<i>Sanctus</i> (Holy)	pg. 26
The Lord's Prayer and Words of Institution	pg. 27
<i>Agnus Dei</i> (Lamb of God)	pg. 28
<i>The Distribution of our Lord's true body and blood for the forgiveness of sin and the strengthening of faith</i>	

### **TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: HOLY**

**COMMUNION:** Today could really be thought of as "All God's Day." In remembering those who have been called to heaven, we are really remembering how richly God blessed them with faith and with its fulfillment! Death does not separate us from them, and our praise is joined with theirs as we worship the Lamb who was slain! As we receive the Sacrament today, we also recall that He who is here with His body and blood is at the same time there hosting the feast of victory in heaven! Until we join in that feast, the most loving thing we can do for all people is to set forth the truth of God's Word. For this reason we practice closed communion. We invite communicant members in good standing of this congregation, or of another congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to commune.

*Nunc Dimittis* (Now You dismiss) and Thanksgiving pg. 29

Benediction pg. 31

Hymn #463 [6-8] For All the Saints Who From Their Labors Rest

*The congregation faces the processional cross as it leaves*

**TELL THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS**



**PRAYER:** O almighty God, by Your Son You promised us the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. We pray, strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we may daily grow in such reliance on Your grace through Christ and hold fast the hope that we will not die but gently fall asleep and be woken up again to eternal life on the Last Day by Your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

**From one of our Lutheran fathers, Johannes Brenz (1499-1570):** The death of the saints is not death; instead it is an expectation of the resurrection in which it will be clearly declared that death is conquered.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Today—Voters' Meeting	after service
Tuesday—Bible Study	6 PM
Thursday- Bible Study	9.30 AM
22 November—Thanksgiving Eve Service	7 pm
06 December—Advent Service/Feast of St. Nicholas	7 pm

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Virginia Butler, Dan and Jean Fraser, Jonna Holden, Arthur Scott, Karen Weiner; Mary Ellen Carl.

### NOTES ON THE SAINTS:

**From our Lutheran Confessions:** Our confession approves honors to the saints. For here is a three-fold honor to be given. The first is **thanksgiving**. For we ought to give thanks to God that He has shown examples of mercy; because He has shown that He wishes to save men; because He has given teachers or other gifts to the Church... The second service is the **strengthening of our faith**; when we see the denial of Peter we also are encouraged to believe the more that grace truly superabounds over sin, Rom. 5.20. The third honor is the **imitation**, first, of faith, then of the other virtues, which everyone should imitate according to his calling. (*Apology [Defense] of the Augsburg Confession*, Article 21)

**From Luther:** When [all of Scripture] speaks of the saints, it refers only to living saints.... Therefore, we, too, should, together with Christ, regard and call holy those who have His Word, take it seriously, and confess it, especially in the midst of temptation and persecution, even though they are miserable, weak human beings and do not have any appearance of special holiness. [AE 69, 100]

Among Christians there is a continual swallowing up of death; and Christ's kingdom is nothing else but an endless swallowing of death and hell. Just as the plague gradually consumes the powers of the body, so Christ, ceaselessly consumes death in His Christians. This happens when we believe the Word. As much as the knowledge of the Word and Christ grows, so also life increases; and as life increases so also do death and sin decrease. [quoted in Reu, pg. 231]

Scripture calls us holy while we still live on earth—if we believe.... Holy you must be, but you must also guard against imagining that you are holy of yourself or by your own merit. You are holy because you have God’s Word, because heaven is yours, because you are truly pious and made holy by Christ. This must be your confession if you would be a Christian. For it would be the greatest disgrace and blasphemy of the name of Christ if we did not concede to Christ’s blood the glory that it washes away our sins, or if we did not believe that this blood sanctifies us. (3980)

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The false humility of our work-righteous folk says: Why, God preserve me! How could anyone be so arrogant as to let himself be called holy? After all, we are nothing but poor sinners. Answer: All this stems from the old notion that when we hear of saintliness, we must look for only great, splendid works and gaze at the saints in heaven as if they had earned and merited it. But we say that the real saints of Christ must be good, stout sinners and remain saints who are not ashamed to pray the Lord’s Prayer.... They are not called saints because they are without sin or have become saintly through works. On the contrary, they themselves, with all their works, are nothing but condemned sinners. But they become holy through a foreign holiness, namely, through that of the Lord Christ, which is given them by faith and thus becomes their own. This faith is so strong and powerful that it covers and wipes away all sins and shortcomings that remain in flesh and blood. I have often said that the kingdom of Christ is nothing but pure forgiveness, a kingdom that deals only with sins and wipes them away, covers them, and cleanses us of them as long as we live here below. (3978)

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“I will do everything and suffer everything for the sake of Him whose promises are so generous and who says: ‘Through Christ you already have all the treasure in heaven, and more than enough. Yet I will give you even more, as a bonus. You will have the kingdom of heaven revealed to you, and the Christ whom you now have in faith you will have in sight as well’” LW 21:292

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



***The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee; The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise Thee; The noble army of martyrs praise Thee; the holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee.***

*—The Te Deum Laudamus*