

Sunday, November 4, 2012

All Saints Sunday/Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Bind Us Together”

748 WOV

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Revelation 21:1–6

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.

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

And 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." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

PSALM: Psalm 24

Refrain: They shall receive blessing from the God of their salvation. (Ps. 24:5)

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

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

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

**Those of innocent hands and purity of heart,
who do not swear on God's being,
nor do they pledge by what is false.**

They shall receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

**Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. R**

Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this¹ King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Lift 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?

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory. R

GOSPEL: John 11:32–44

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

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

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

HYMN: **"All Things Bright and Beautiful"** **# 767 WOV**

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In communion with the saints of every time and place, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Ancient One, dwell in your church and in your people, and fill us with your Spirit, that we may proclaim your saving deeds to a thirsty world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

King of glory, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Renew farmland that now lies fallow, transform barren wastelands into fertile soil, and bring new life from death. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ruler of the nations, help us make wise decisions for the good of all and elect leaders who will use their authority to further justice and peace in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, those who weep and mourn wait upon you (*especially*). Be with them in their pain and sorrow, wipe away their tears, and give them hope in your victory over death. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the feast, bless this assembly and all who seek you. Nourish us richly with your word and meal, that we may be signs of your living presence in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Eternal God, the Alpha and Omega, we rejoice in the lives of those you have gathered into your holy city (*those who have died during the past year may be named*). Keep us in loving communion with them until we are gathered into the company of all the saints around your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you his peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love” # 765 WOV

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 4, 2012

Tied

As we read the story of Lazarus from start to end, we can see action weaving in and out of the passage. Jesus weeps, Mary and Martha question, Jesus speaks, Lazarus is raised, and then Lazarus is unbound and allowed to "go," at Jesus' request.

In a cemetery next to a church, several bright blue balloons are stuck high in the branches of a towering oak tree, their strings wrapped tightly around branches. The balloons, released at a funeral for a young man, represented his release into the hands of God. The groundskeeper expected that wind or storms would quickly shake them loose, but the balloons are still there. They're visible ties of a life and of the many memories and relationships of the young man buried beneath them.

On All Saints Sunday we remember and celebrate that we are bound with the saints of every age. Some, like Mark, Mary, or John the Baptist, have their festival days on our liturgical calendar. Others are ordinary or extraordinary folks—our departed grandparents, the people who planted or founded our congregations, the teacher who nurtured us in the faith when we were in the sixth grade. We are also tied and entangled with those who will lead and those who will be the church twenty-five, or fifty, or one hundred years from now.

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we are tied together *by* Christ, and we are tied *to* Christ. When death comes for each of us, Jesus Christ unties us from this earthly life and releases us to eternal life with him. Like Lazarus, we are raised. We are eternally bound and tied together in Christ, tied to the past, tied to the future.

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THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Carolyn Morris & Nancy Hanson
Ushers: 8:30 Skip & Lynn Hanson, 10:00 Marilyn Andrews & Judy Seifert
Lectors 8:30 Audrey Kullberg, 10:00 Kathy Berland
Coffee Servers: Mary Swanson, Jim & Vicki Magedanz

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (10/28/12)

Attendance: 8:30 – 96 10:00 – 35

Offering: \$ 2,246.35 Building Fund: \$ 315.00

\$3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.

\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA NOVEMBER 4TH THRU NOVEMBER 10TH, 2012

Mon., Nov. 5th 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Tues., Nov. 6th 9:30 a.m. Bells

Wed., Nov. 7th 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Hardanger
 6:00 p.m. Choir
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team
 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thurs., Nov. 8th 8:00 a.m. R.O.M.E.O.S.
 1:00 p.m. Funtimers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING BOX—Today we will pass the Blessing Box in honor of the joy, peace, hope, and love we have received from our heavenly Father. If you have been blessed in any way, and if you are able, you are invited to respond with a gift that will be used to help make our world a better place.

Today is **COFFEE DAY** – Donate a can of coffee for our coffee time between services. That is how we are able to not ask for donations every Sunday for coffee hour. Please donate if you are able. There will be a cart in the Narthex where you may leave your coffee.

Also let us keep an eye on the **COFFEE SERVER** list as we are in need of servers for the following dates: Need one more couple to serve with Darwin & Jeannine on Nov. 18th, and two couples to serve for Nov. 25th, Dec. 2nd, Dec. 16th, Dec. 23rd and Dec. 30th. If we have no one signed up, we will have no coffee and goodies served.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoeboxes will be packed on Sunday, November 11th after the second service. Please bring all filled shoeboxes and other items for the boxes to the church by next Sunday. Donations are also accepted for the postage needed to deliver the boxes (\$7 per box).

REMINDER TO QUILTERS: Will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 13th at 9:00 a.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD CARE GROUP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 11TH. Please Join together with the people from your group so that you can meet and exchange information and get to know one another.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE will be held Wednesday, November 21st at 6:30 p.m. preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. Come join us!!

A FINAL EXPENSE WORKSHOP will be held November 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Mille Lacs Lake Funeral Home in Isle. See Community Bulletin Board for details.

December 1st – **WELCA Women’s Luncheon at Bethesda**

December 3rd – **Bethesda Christmas Party at Pine Inn**

December 9th – **Cantata**

December 24th – **Christmas Eve Services at 3:30 & 5:00 p.m.**

December 25th – **Christmas Day Communion Service at 10:00 a.m. (One Service)**
followed by a **Christmas Potluck Dinner**

December 30th – **Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. (One Service)**