

November 1, 2020

All Saints' Sunday

Prelude:

Welcome: A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today.

We sing our **Gathering Song:** ELW 428 - *“Give Thanks for Saints”*

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: God of unfailing light, in your realm of glory the poor are blessed, the hungry filled and every tear is wiped away. Strengthened by this vision, may we follow in the way of holiness that your Son make known in life and death. **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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: *"Blest Are Those Who Love You"*

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1 - 3

A reading from First 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. They are before the throne of God, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
Alleluia.

Gospel: 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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily: Some of the most beautiful scriptures that Christians have, like today’s first reading, come from the Book of Revelation. They speak of the hope that is ours as we live by faith and the victory of Christ our Lord over death and the power of evil. They bring comfort and courage to the faithful.

The only problem is that when you share a reading from Revelation that you cherish in public, many people will roll their eyes at the oddness of it all and you will probably be branded a fanatic.

Many of the incredibly bizarre images in the Book of Revelation have double meanings. Most of them are a portrayal of the Emperor, who insisted that Christians worship him as a God, or a culture or country that was hostile to Christians. If something is really weird in the Book of Revelation, there is a good chance that only early Christians knew what it meant and chances are it was about someone or something who was making their life miserable. The good news in the Book of Revelation for persecuted Christians is that the persecutors and all that troubles them will have their time and then they will come to an end. The final victory belongs to Christ and those who bear his name.

Some of the meanings of the images in Revelation is now lost to us. We should remember that not all scripture is about us and not all scripture is for us in our time and place, but that it was helpful to someone, in some time, and in some place. Not everything has to always be about us to be edifying. If it helped some Christians get through their darker days than that alone makes it worth cherishing, even if we do not have a clue what it means.

The other problem is that Revelation has been used by some as a predictor of the future, a book that can be made to foresee and promote a wide range of strange beliefs, most of which have very little to do with the Gospel of Christ.

What is more likely is that the Book of Revelation is a collection of circular writings all saying similar things, just in different times and sometimes to different groups. Revelation is more a collection of writings to bring encouragement and comfort than prophecy.

Almost everything that was written in the Book of Revelation was for Christians living under terrible persecution, struggling to be hopeful and faithful. Reading Revelation, their persecutors really had no idea what the writer was saying to his faithful ones - that

God would deliver them from their oppressors and from the hands of all who sought to do them harm. Those words also spoke of the hope that was theirs in spite of everything this world could throw at them - even death and the often brutal treatment they experienced at the hands of those who persecute the faithful ones.

What the Book of Revelation is about, mostly, is our trust and our hope that is in God. It gives us a beautiful image of God coming down to greet and welcome the beloved ones with tender-hearted grace, wiping away our tears, freeing us from our fears...and the Lord taking us to himself, so that where he is, we may be also.

As the Book of Revelation brings the Bible to a close, it does so by saying that our story with God will never be over, because our life goes on forever. The God we see creating us in the first book of the Bible and placing us in Eden (the Garden of God's Delight) in the last book of the Bible now tells us we will be taken to paradise, to the Garden of the New Jerusalem in the Holy City of God.

If you do not know the stories of our faith this will sound like a bunch of nonsense; but those who have been raised in the faith and in the stories of our faith know that God has always wanted nothing more for us than to live in paradise. In the end that, by God's tender-hearted kindness and grace alone, is our destination. Nothing and no one can take that away from us.

And so we gather on this All Saints' Sunday proclaiming and celebrating that the final victory will always be Christ's, and that even now we share his victory over sin and death with our beloved ones who have gone to paradise before us. We shall see them again, and then our hearts will be filled with joy. That is

more than enough reason to rejoice and good cause to celebrate, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 426 - *“Sing With All the Saints in Glory”*

Prayers of the Faithful: Gracious God, we thank you for the lives of all your beloved ones, and we join our voices with all your saints as we gather to celebrate on this holy day. We rejoice that we also belong to the communion of saints through Baptism into the life of Christ, the Risen One. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with fondness all the beloved ones in our parish family who have passed from death to life in our Heavenly Father’s home since our last All Saints’ celebration: Wesley Rogge, Earl Hoelke, Janet Baynham, Ralph Baynham, Nelda Brose, Audrey Lehman, Grant Klawitter, William Suckow, Esther Corrigan, Mary Brown, Donald Boland, Mel Pilatzke, Diane Leith, Clay Bingley, Gerry Binhammer, Bonnie Connaughan, Arnold Kruschenske, Ellen Gorr, Burnell Kathen, Willis Rutz, Lois Wolfgram, Gloria Biggs, Donna Weisenberg, Inez Kelly, & Hilda Klawitter. We thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of their lives that we shared and for the life they now live with you in paradise. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for those who showed faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gentle God, bring peace to our hearts in these troubled and fearful times. Be with those whose anxiety feels overwhelming and help be gentle with people struggling to cope. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for all who are ill and all who are preparing for, or recovering from surgery: Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Dorian Verch, Wesley Weichenthal, and all who seek peace and wholeness. We thank you for your gifts of healing. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are working on vaccines and treatments during the pandemic and for all who care for those struggling with the virus. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, gracious God. **Amen.**

Gathering all our prayers into one, we pray the prayer that you have taught us:

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.**

Blessing: May our Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us in the Risen Life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Song: ELW 427 – *“For All Your Saints, O Lord”*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Dorian Verch, Wesley Weichenthal.

VIGIL CANDLES on the Baptismal shelf have been lit in memory of our beloved ones who have passed from death to life in our Heavenly Father's home since our last All Saints' celebration. We will remember them in the Prayers of the Faithful this Sunday: Wesley Rogge, Earl Hoelke, Janet Baynham, Ralph Baynham, Nelda Brose, Audrey Lehman, Grant Klawitter, William Suckow, Esther Corrigan, Mary Brown, Donald Boland, Mel Pilatzke, Diane Leith, Clay Bingley, Gerry Binhammer, Bonnie Connaughan, Arnold Kruschenske, Ellen Gorr, Burnell Kathen, Willis Rutz, Lois Wolfgram, Gloria Biggs, Donna Weisenberg, Inez Kelly, & Hilda Klawitter.

A DONATION has been made towards the Video Equipment Upgrade by Vince & Emma Rabishaw in loving memory of a dear mother Hilda Klawitter who passed away on October 3, 2020. *“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.” John 6:39*

A DONATION has been made towards the Stained Glass Repair Fund by Edward & Robbie Gorr in loving memory of a dear wife and mother, Ellen Gorr, who passed away on April 1, 2020. *“Very truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.” John 5:24*

A DONATION has been made towards the Video Equipment Upgrade by Edith & Barry Gorr in remembrance of a beloved sister-in-law and aunt, Ellen Gorr. *“So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” John 16:22*

A DONATION has been made towards the Video Equipment Upgrade by Ruth Crigger in loving memory of her husband Stanley Crigger, who passed away April 22, 2015. *“Be joyful in God all you lands, sing to the glory of His name, sing the glory of His praise.” Psalm 66:1*

A DONATION has been made towards the Video Equipment Upgrade in loving memory of Stanley Crigger by his family. *“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.” Psalm 136:1*

A NOTE CONCERNING THE OFFERING THIS SUNDAY

For this Sunday only, the offering basket will be located on a small stand near the entry to the Place of Worship, near the Baptismal Font.

A NOTE REGARDING NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Next Sunday, a wreath will be placed in thanksgiving and in memory of all who served in past military actions and peacekeeping missions during the Prayers of the Faithful. A Prayer of Remembrance will also be offered during that time.

A NOTE REGARDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

On Sunday, November 15, the Rev. Michael Hackbusch, a Lutheran military chaplain stationed in Petawawa, will serve as our Guest Presider and Homilist at our 10 a.m. celebration. We look forward to welcoming him.

EMERGENCY CLOSING - With Covid-19 creating so much uncertainty we feel it is necessary to have a plan in place on how we will notify our members if we need to close the church on short notice. Should this be required there will be lots of media attention that should have the members questioning our closing. We will do the following:

- Have the voicemail message at the church office updated indicating our closing date and restrictions.
- A message will be posted on our Facebook account and our church website.
- We will send an email to all members who have an email account on file.
- We will identify people that have been attending our worship services by using the registration sheets completed each week and will call these people.

Susan Dupuis

CLWR LEARNING AND LIVING KITS CANCELLED

We have just heard from our Dean of the Ottawa St. Lawrence Conference Area Bruce Thompson that due to the COVID Pandemic the learning kits will not be able to be shipped due to excessive cost and difficulty in shipping this year.

If you have already purchased items for the kits, we would still welcome your donations. We have made arrangement to give the school supplies to children in need in our own community. The toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap, etc. will be packaged along with other items for the residents of Carefor at Christmas.

You may bring you donations into the church and we will collect them in the big yellow bag but the supplies will be used locally.

We shall keep you updated when we receive more information.
Thank you for your understanding.

Ellen Vandersleen, Chair Social Ministry Committee

JAM JAR FUNDRAISER

It is that time of year that your Social Ministry Committee is launching the Jam Jar Fundraiser. This year we have chosen **Gifts From the Heart** Program from CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief). This is an exceptional program that assists families which in turn leads to self sufficiency. It also helps their local economy.

Depending on the monies raised will determine how we will help. For example last year \$75.00 would purchase a pair of goats for a family. These goats would provide milk to help feed their families. The goats would also breed in time to promote long term growth. A pair of oxen and plough was \$500.00. With a pair of oxen more soil can be tilled more quickly allowing time for other activities such as attending school. Some gifts are matched 3x (the oxen and plough) or 4x (Emergency food) thanks to Canadian Foodgrains and the Canadian Government. Our money has the potential to go far.

You may pick up a jar at the registration table to fill with change or other. Cheques are always welcome. If you wish to have a tax receipt, we will need your name and address or envelope number if there is cash only in the jar. This campaign will run until the first week of Advent - November 29, 2020. Thank you for your generous support.

Your Social Ministry Committee

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Our community garden has had a successful first year. A small group of us harvested the potatoes Monday October 19. We dug about 150-175 lbs. of large potatoes from our little garden. All the potatoes will be donated to St Joseph's Food Bank. A special thank you to Al Kellough, Peter and Pat Wegner and Pastor Stephen for helping with the harvest.

In August- September we picked about 32 lbs. of green and yellow beans which were also given to the food bank. What a blessing to help the community in which we live. *What does the law require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

Ellen Vandersleen

THANK YOU - Thank You! Thank You! Everyone for your support of our garage sale! This year we had a record amount of donations. We are most grateful!!! We also made a record amount this year also. Looking back 5 years even when we had matching grants, plant sales and our cafe we surpassed even those totals. Incredible! It was worth the effort but it did take great effort to organize and plan this event.

Special thanks to Peter and Patty Wegner, Al and Jill Kellough, Pamela Duplessis, Debbie Sitkiewicz, Denise Schizkoske, Edie Brumm, Susan Dupuis, Debbie Wegner, Roseanne Campbell, and Cheryl Sack for all the set up. A smaller group of these fine individuals spent a day packing up the leftovers and donating them to Value Village, The Grind and the flower vases went to a floral shop who gave us a donation for the vases.

Thank you to Richard Faught who took 5 truck loads to Value Village. We truly helped many people of the greater community

with this project. We made around \$4,507.85 which will be divided equally between The Robbie Dean Center and Zion's New AV equipment. Thanks be to God! Ellen Vandersleen

ZLW – Our ZLW (Zion Lutheran Women) will be meeting on Wednesday, November 4th at 2 p.m. in our Sanctuary. The program will be on “Remembrance Day.”

RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF CAMP LUTHERLYN

Camp Lutherlyn is hosting a raffle with 13 various prizes to be given away. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00, and can be purchased from the church office, on line or from various members of the board. For more information, please check out their website (www.lutherlyncamp.ca) or their Facebook page. Draw date is December 12, 2020.

Today’s Scheduled Worship Leaders

Counters: Lisa Campitelli, Karen Gauthier, David Lehman

Greeter: Myrna Valliant

Guides: Kevin & Jean Rutz

Projector Operator: Philip Vandersleen

Sexton: Koit Rull

Worship Assistant: Lorraine MacKenzie

This Week at Zion – November 2 - 8

Monday	7 p.m.	Social Ministry Committee Meeting
Tuesday	7 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
	7 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Wed	2 p.m.	ZLW Meeting
		BULLETIN DEADLINE
Sun	10 a.m.	Holy Communion