

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church

November 1, 2020



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 those who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. While we may face death with fear, the liturgy calls us to hear the Lord's promise that He is with us in life and in death.

Christ has claimed us in baptism and at His table we gather with the faithful of every time and place trusting that the promises of God will be

fulfilled. In the new Jerusalem we shall join all the saints in praise of God, Who has turned our graves into the doorway to eternal life.

✝ GATHERING ✝

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen**

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, the whole company of heaven, and our sisters and brothers.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. Most merciful God,

C. You know our failings better than we do; we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Our days and years pass by; the things we trust fade like grass. Be gracious to us, O God. Guide us again to the water of life, and renew in us the grace of holy baptism; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

P. You are all children of the light and of the day; you are God's children now. In the mercy of God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. With all the faithful in heaven and on earth, rejoice and be glad!

C. **Amen.**

GREETING

P. Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, for He is gracious; Never shall His promise fail. God has made His saints victorious; Sin and death shall not prevail. Praise the God of our salvation; Hosts on high, His pow'r proclaim; Heav'n and earth, and all creation, Laud and magnify His name!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty God, Whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the body of 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 Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. **Amen.**

RITE OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS

P. In the new Jerusalem there will be no need of sun or moon,

C. **for the glory of God will be its light**

P. Before the Lamb is a multitude from every nation,

C. **and they worship God night and day.**

P. Surely He is coming soon.

C. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

P. Holy God . . . now and forever.

C. **Amen.**

As the names of those who have died and those who have been baptized in the past year are read, a candle will be lighted.

P. For all those . . . now and forever.

C. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading provides a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer responds to the faithful with the assurance of God's protection and a vision of eventual victory.

After 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. C. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

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

²I will glory in the LORD;
let the humble hear and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt His name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and He answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.

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

⁶I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear Him,
and He will deliver them.

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who trust in him!

⁹Fear the LORD, you that are His saints,

for those who fear Him lack nothing.

¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger,

but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

²²The LORD ransoms the life of His servants,
and none will be punished who trust in Him.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for His purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. John encourages us to hope in God's love and trust the promise that we shall see God's face.

See 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. C. Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 5:1-12

In the beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

When 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."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

For All the Saints



For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,
 Oh, blest com - mu - nion fel - low - ship di - vine, we
 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .
 fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

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

He will come again 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with the saints by the river of life and surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We give thanks for Your Church, gracious God, where we hear the gospel of deliverance, experience forgiveness, and taste Your goodness. Bless all who lead and all who boldly join in our song of thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

Guide all people of the earth through harsh extremes in the cycles of creation – drought and monsoon, blistering heat and freezing cold. Hold in Your mercy all places where lives have been disrupted by natural disasters, especially the fires in California and Colorado and the hurricane in the gulf coast and Vietnam. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for Your church, gracious God, where we hear the gospel of deliverance, experience forgiveness, and taste Your goodness. Bless all who lead and all who boldly join in our song of thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

You call blessed what our world scorns: poverty of spirit, sorrow, meekness, righteousness, mercy, purity, and persecution. Give us eyes of faith, that we might see Christ's power at work in weakness. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

Throughout the world, people suffer from injustice, brokenness, and ordeals of every kind. But you call us to a different vision, where there is no more hunger, where you are shelter, and where every tear is wiped away. Guide us during this election week, that those who

seek the common good will be elected; protect those who vote; and preserve our nation from all forms of civil discord. Let Your promised kingdom increase. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

Guard and protect those in particular need especially those sick with coronavirus and their loved ones, all medical personnel, those who are being persecuted or martyred for their faith and those who are injured or ill. We pray especially for Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Lynette, Brenda, Bill and Karen Polen, Bill Ningen, Roman, Marlo and Gail Sumption, Tom and Carol. Restore them to health and wholeness. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

You bestow marvelous gifts upon us, and even call us Your children. Make of us one great family of faith, full of compassion for one another, and joyful in the blessings that others receive. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the great company of saints, whose witness nurtured us in faith and who now rest from their labors. May we join their chorus when our earthly labor is complete. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Jesus Christ our Lord.
C. **Amen.**

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Creator God,

C. **the earth and all that is in it belong to You. Inspire us to use what You have made to give justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and freedom to the captives. May our offerings, given in Your name, lift up those who are bowed down; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion



all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus,
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee: changed from



thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed
 would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy
 glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we



love thou art; vis - it us with thy sal -
 hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee with - out
 take our place, till we cast our crowns be -



va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL

- P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God
Organist: Terry Dybsetter
Camera: Josh Sumption

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter
Reader: Martha Melrose
Projection:

How to reach us:

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All Saints' Day is a universal festival of the Church. This festival day directs our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints.

The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ.

Below are the names of the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church who have died since All Saints' Day last year. We remember them in our prayers today, and we give thanks for their lives. We remember and find strength in their faith and the faith of all the saints both known to us and known only to God.

2020 All Saints Remembrance Joined the Saints Victorious

2020 All Saints Remembrance

Joined the Saints Victorious

Beatrice Heise
Curtis Blumeyer
Gertrude Fluck
Jack Munter
Harlan Esping
Doug Pearson
Kathy Moll
Rosemary Mooney
Mike Wentz

Joined the Saints on Earth

Saylor Reign Longhenry
Juniper Wollum

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

October 25, 2020

General: \$4,054.19 (\$254.50 received through eGiving)
Includes: \$1,635.00 from Manna Fund for Internet Broadcast Equipment.
\$464.69 from savings for Sunday School and Confirmation supplies.
Savings: \$20.00 for Organ.

			Year:	2020			
			Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 103,919.70	*Does not include the Hemnes share of the Parish Budget.		
			Monthly revenue required to meet budget:	\$ 8,659.98			
Year to Date Actual Revenue and Budgeted Expenses Comparison-							
This report is based on budgeted expenses only, divided evenly for each month of the calendar year. Actual expenses per month varie greatly. This analysis is to be used as a guideline only and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.							
This report does not include revenues assigned to the Hemnes Lutheran Church portion of the joint parish budget or transfers from savings accounts that cover special, non-budgeted expenses.							
	Total Revenue for Month	Year to Date Revenue	Year to Date Budgeted Expense	Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers	Cash Reserves Expended	Cash Reserves Repaid	Reserves Repaid Notes
January	\$7,965.95	\$7,965.95	\$8,659.98	-\$694.03			
February	\$4,163.24	\$12,129.19	\$17,319.95	-\$5,190.76			
March	\$8,867.00	\$20,996.19	\$25,979.93	-\$4,983.74			
April	\$8,572.27	\$29,568.46	\$34,639.90	-\$5,071.44			
May	\$16,334.85	\$45,904.12	\$43,299.88	\$2,604.25		\$3,000.00	Federal COVID Response Grant*
June	\$7,028.50	\$52,932.62	\$51,959.85	\$972.77			
July	\$3,832.84	\$56,765.46	\$60,619.83	-\$3,854.37			
August	\$6,590.74	\$63,356.20	\$69,279.80	-\$5,923.60			
September	\$3,552.25	\$66,908.45	\$77,939.78	-\$11,031.33			
October	\$4,830.00	\$71,738.45	\$86,599.75	-\$14,861.30	-\$3,000.00		

* \$3,000 from the Federal COVID Response Grant as it was deposited directly into General from the US Treasury, it was later moved into Bethel's Reserve Fund in the savings account. This amount is not reflected in the May or Year to Date revenues. It is possible, pending determination of the US Treasury that these funds will need to be returned.



Merv Anderson, Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
 Shirlee Gabbert, Lynette Christie, Brenda Knutson, Bill and Karen Pohlen
 Bill Ningen, Marlo and Gail Sumption, Tom Gawerecki, Carol Moon

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Prayers of Intercession: Sundays and Seasons, lightly edited by Pastor Munter.