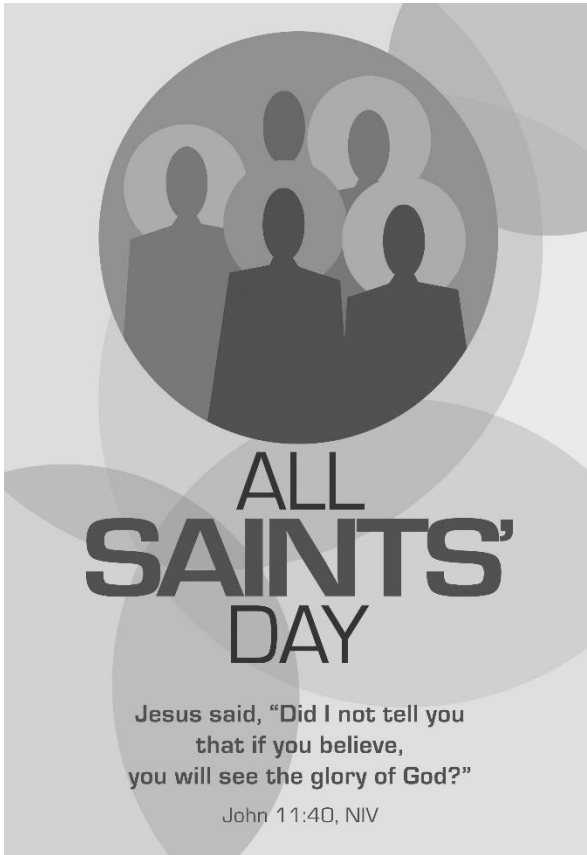


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

All Saints Sunday

November 3, 2024

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our refuge,
our delight,
our beginning and our end.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us
and has freed us from our sin.

Kneel

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

**C: we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are complicit in its power.**

We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.

Unbind us and set us free.

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives
for the good of your world**

**and the care of our neighbors,
following in the servant way of Jesus.**

Amen.

P: These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.

For his sake, you are † forgiven
and God remembers your sin no more.

Let your heart be glad again,
and rejoice in your salvation.

C: Amen.

Stand

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.

GATHERING HYMN

For All the Saints, st. 1, 6-8LBW 174

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

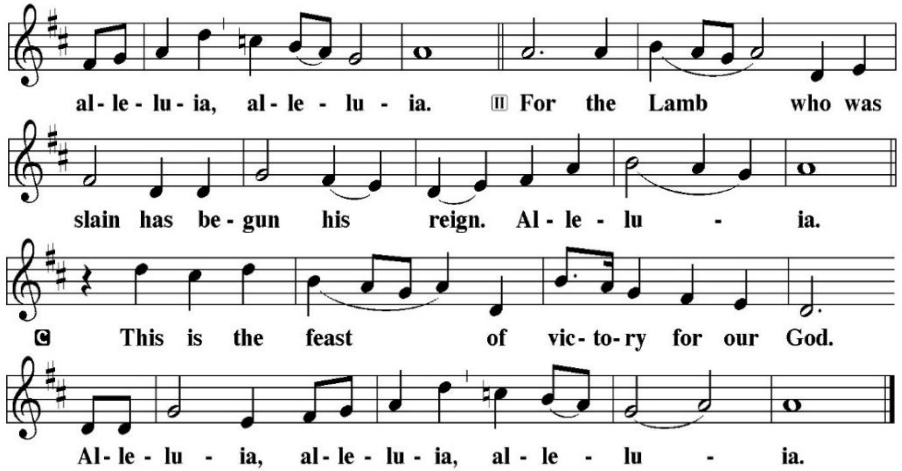
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **¶** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **¶¶** Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **¶** Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ¶ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
 ¶ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

A: A Reading from Isaiah:

- 6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
 a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
 of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
- 7 And he will destroy on this mountain
 the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
 the sheet that is spread over all nations;
- 8 he will swallow up death forever.
 Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
 and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
 for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 24

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.

They shall re - ceive a bless - ing from the
God of their sal - va - tion.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

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

- ¹ The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.
- ² **For the LORD has founded it up- | on the seas
and established it up- | on the rivers. R**
- ³ Who may ascend the mountain | of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's | holy place?
- ⁴ **Those of innocent hands and puri- | ty of heart,
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by | what is
false.**
- ⁵ They shall receive blessing | from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of | their salvation.
- ⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek | you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob. R**
- ⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.
- ⁸ **Who is this | King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- | y in battle!**
- ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.
- ¹⁰ **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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³² 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." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ 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." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² 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." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON.....**Pastor Amme**

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! st.1, 4-6*

1 Re - joi - ce, ye pure in heart! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing;
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain

Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!

5 At last the march shall end;
 the wearied ones shall rest;
 the pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
 the Lord whom we adore:
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.
 Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

MEMORIAL CANDLE LIGHTING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared.

ANTHEM

A Holy Sacrifice.....Pepper Choplin

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

C: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
 you offered yourself in love for the world,
 and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
 Fill us with your abundance,
 that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
 trusting in your name. Amen


GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



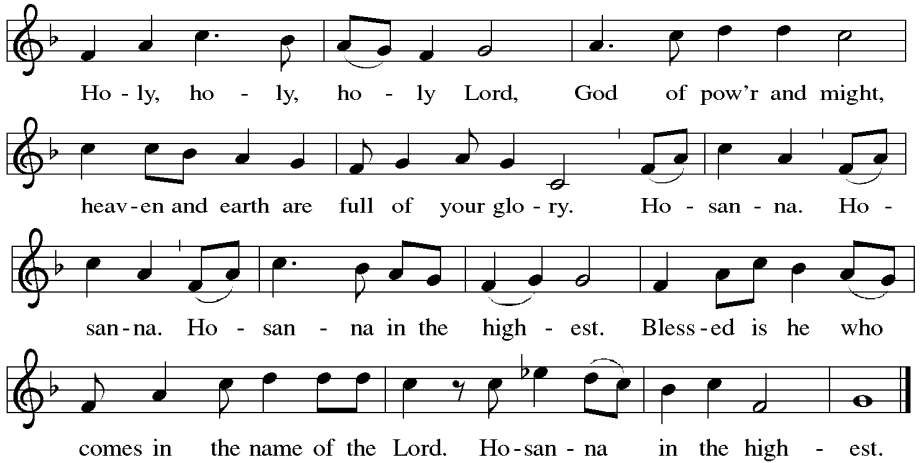
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of the Saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy, and rejoice with them in glory. And so with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
 that all those who believe in him should not perish,
 but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared
 for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
 that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
 as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Behold, God is making all things new.
 Take your place in God's new creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say:* Amen

COMMUNION HYMN

Just as I Am, without One PleaLBW 296

Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Faithful God,
you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
in the body and blood of your Son.
Now send us out to labor with you,
in service to the world you have made,
and among the people you have made your home,
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

SENDING HYMN

For All Your Saints, O LordLBW 176

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Communion Assistant:** Fred Harbaugh; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Dylan Sherman; **Torchbearers:** Karrah Bair, Brennen Hess; **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner; **Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum
Cantor: Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

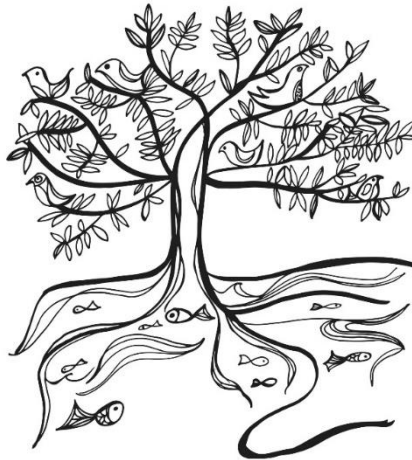
IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of those who have died since last All Saints Sunday and who have been forever united to Christ.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Brenda and Marlin Cromley's 25th Wedding Anniversary.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of David and Emily Bausinger's 46th Wedding Anniversary.

The White Carnations are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the following people who have died since last All Saints Sunday. Nellie Byham, Carol Dieffenbach, Leonard "Craig" Harris, Albert Kelley and Rodney "OB" O'Brien.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. We hope to see you again.

The Missional Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help with "Hearts that Care", a part of the Seasoned Helpers Ministry. This committee will do occasional wellness checks, home/hospital visits, provide transportation if needed. If you are interested in this mission please sign up on the sign-up sheet provided in the Narthex, please take note, this is not an every day occurrence. You are not required to be available 24/7. For more information call the church office.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for Bible Study and Fellowship. *All are welcome!*

The Advent Kids in Mission will be held on December 7th and as always, we'll need some help. If you are able to help please let me know. More information will follow. Thank you for your support. Kathryn Pratt 570-244-6964

Official Notice is hereby given of the Annual Congregation Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 8th. This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending.

The nominees for Congregation Council 2025 are Joanie Jackson, Al Cole and Ron Yeagle. Any voting member may now make Nominations-at-Large. These nominations must contain written assurance that the nominee will serve if elected. Contact Sue Christ, Sherri Holtzman or Larry Solomon with nominations by October 27. *No nominations will be accepted from the floor of the annual meeting on December 8th. Thank you.*

White Gifts & Christmas Food Basket Project has begun!

Recipients of white gifts and food baskets are now being identified. If you know a family that could benefit from receiving white gifts or a food basket, please contact the church office by Friday, November 8th.

Mark your calendar for "**TRIVIA NIGHT**" on Saturday, **November 16**. We will have some new faces. While George Jansson is having eye problems for which he will have surgery, Lyn and Jeff Reitz will be the Quizmasters that evening. They will follow George's format--even the dreaded musical section. Pizza and beverages will be supplied. Please bring a snack to share with everyone. The fees are ... \$8.00 per person; \$15.00 per couple. The beneficiary is Messiah's Backpack Project.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING
JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702
(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Grief Unbound

We get so much emotive action in this All Saints gospel! There is weeping and more weeping. There is deep regret, “what ifs,” and “if onlys.” We hear how deeply loved Lazarus was, and even Jesus is moved in body and spirit.

Grief is a full-body experience, and it is comforting to know that our God, in the form of Jesus—completely human and completely divine—fully understands this. Death stinks—there is no getting around it. Death stinks for the loved ones left behind, and decay (“Lord, already there is a stench”) signals a finality to all living things.

And yet . . . All Saints Day is a time when we celebrate the finite human existence and how resurrection shows up beyond this. Jesus declares to Lazarus’s loved ones, “Unbind him and let him go,” resurrecting Lazarus back to life. During All Saints worship, we remember our loved ones who have died, and we hold fast to Jesus’ proclamation of resurrection for them. Death is no longer the end of their story, or ours. Jesus has promised eternal life and a love that goes beyond any tomb we find ourselves trapped in.

All Saints Day is a time when you do not have to pretend that everything is okay. Grief is a part of the human experience, and it is a messy, smelly, loud, and overwhelming ride. May you know that no matter where you are on this day, God shows up next to you, weeping and disturbed. There is no stench that keeps God away.

May you know that your grief is holy. May you also know that this grief is not the end of your loved one’s story or yours. Someday we shall be unbound. Someday we shall be whole. Someday all shall be well.

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