GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



→ Holy Communion →
 All Saints Sunday
 November 2, 2025

#### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest." In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today's gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's glory.

#### **GATHERING**

## **PRELUDE**

Stand

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, 

→ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

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

Kneel

**P**: Faithful God,

©: you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths.

We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.

We ignore our neighbors.

We exploit the earth.

We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life.

Amen

P: Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,

→ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

C: Amen

Stand

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.





Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt. Music: SINE NOMINE, R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

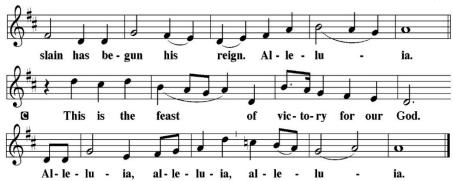
# **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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**





### 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:** Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

The book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel's vision of the four beasts proclaims that human kings will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God's people.

# A: A Reading from Daniel:

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: <sup>2</sup> I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, <sup>3</sup> and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

<sup>15</sup> As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. <sup>16</sup> I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: <sup>17</sup> "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup> But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM: Psalm 149

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD | a new song, God's praise in the assembly | of the faithful.
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel rejoice | in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful | in their ruler.
- <sup>3</sup> Let them praise their maker's | name with dancing; let them sing praise with tambou- | rine and harp.
- <sup>4</sup> For the LORD takes pleasure | in the people and adorns the | poor with victory. R
- <sup>5</sup> Let the faithful re-| joice in triumph; let them sing for joy| on their beds.
- <sup>6</sup> Let the praises of God be | in their throat and a two-edged sword | in their hand,
- <sup>7</sup> to wreak vengeance | on the nations and punishment | on the peoples.
- 8 to bind their | kings in chains and their nobles with | links of iron,
- <sup>9</sup> to inflict on them the judg- | ment decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful ones. | Hallelujah! **R**

# **SECOND READING:** Ephesians 1:11-23

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, the writer of this letter prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.

A: A Reading from Ephesians:

<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy

Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**A**: The word of the Lord.

# C Thanks be to God.



Stand

The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us. Please face the processional cross.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**Cantor:** They are before the | throne of God, \* and the one who is seated on the throne will | shelter them.

# C: Repeat the Alleluias

#### **GOSPEL: Luke 6:20-31**

In echoes of the prophet Isaiah and Mary's song of praise, Jesus reveals surprising things about who enjoys blessing and who endures woe. He invites his disciples to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

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

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

24 "But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> "Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

 $^{26}\,\mbox{``Woe}$  to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you."

**P**: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

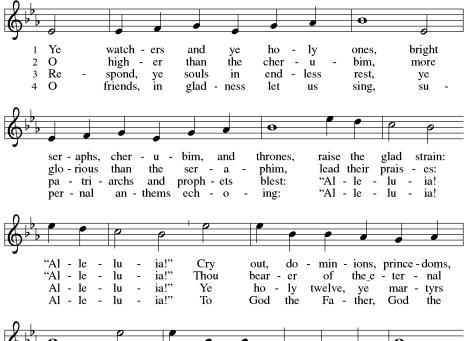
Sit

SERMON ......Pastor Amme

Stand

# **HYMN OF THE DAY**

# Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones .....LBW 175









Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858-1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Outside USA: Text from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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#### 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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

**P**: Here us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

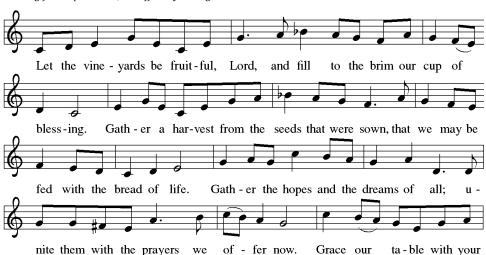
#### **ANTHEM**

Carry Me Home ...... Jean Anne Shafferman

Stand

## **OFFERTORY**

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung





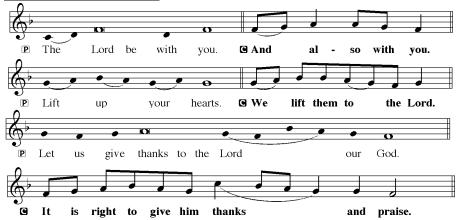
## **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

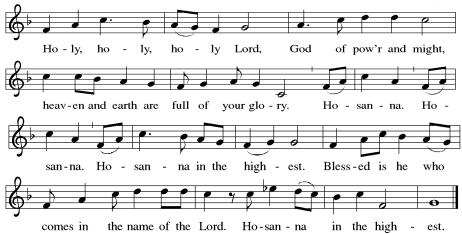
Amen

# **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



#### **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:



## **EUCHARISTIC 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.

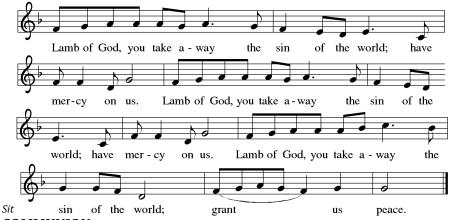
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

# 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: There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.
- C: Thanks be to God.



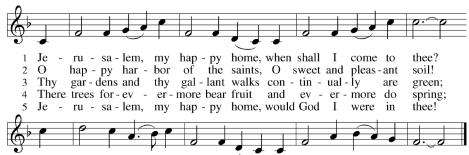
# **COMMUNION**

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**

Jerusalem, My Happy Home.....LBW 331



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see? In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil. there grow such sweet and pleas-ant flow'rs as no-where else are seen. there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing. Would God my woes were at an end, thy joys that I might see!

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**: Let us pray.

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world.

Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst,

and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: Amen

#### SENDING

# **BLESSING**

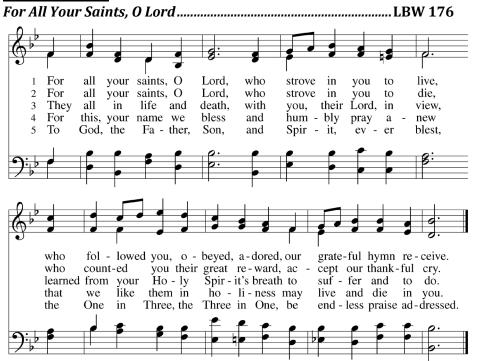
P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you +
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart

G: Amen

now and forever.

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

# **SENDING HYMN**



Text: Richard Mant, 1776-1848, alt.

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

# **DISMISSAL**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

# **POSTLUDE**

#### **SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ **Lay Assistant:** Anita Bair; **Communion Asistant:** Mandy Feinberg **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter; **Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Jody Fullmer, Carl Gee

Cantor: Candy Watkins; Flower Delivery: Charles Luppert

## **IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers are** given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Cletus Gephart, born 7/30/1935and died 11/4/2024, with love from Ed and Marlene Young.

**The Basket of Flowers is** given to the Glory of God and in loving honor of Brenda and Marlin Cromley's wedding anniversary on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**The Basket of Flowers is** given to the Glory of God and in loving honor of David and Emily Bausinger's 47<sup>th</sup> 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. Claire Keefer, Jeannie Laurrell, Eleanor Jones, Mary Strunk, Connie Vogel, Paul Vogel, Jr., Marie Welter, Pastor Josh Knutson, Carl Fila and E. Stuart "Stu" Congdon.



## **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.

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

**Official Notice** is hereby given of the **Annual Congregation Meeting** to be held on **Sunday, November 23**<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending.

Christmas Basket Food Donations: We are beginning our food collection early this year to fill the baskets we give to families in need at Christmas time. Food donations may be placed in the bin in the narthex on Sunday mornings or in the specially marked bin in the elevator alcove during the week. Monetary donations are also needed for the purchase of perishable items. Please place your gifts in an envelope marked "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate during worship or mail to the church office. Checks are to be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "Christmas Baskets" written in the memo line. All donations are due no later than Sunday, December 14.

**Unfortunately, we will not be holding Sunday School** until further notice. We look forward to seeing the kids at our Saturday morning events.

**Our Advent Kid's Event will be held on Saturday, December 6**<sup>th</sup> from 9 until noon. As usual we will need your assistance with volunteering. Please contact Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964 if you able to help. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to share God's presence with the children in our community. Thank you, Kathryn

With deep sorrow and sadness, but always in sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we announce the death of The Rev. Joshua Robert Knutson, Pastor of the Two Rivers Parish, Columbia, South Carolina. Pastor Knutson had served us at Messiah Church as Vicar from August, 2018 through August, 2019. We extend our prayers to his wife, Roseann, and daughter, Lexi. A special offering will be taken this morning, that we will direct to Roseann and Lexi for their immediate needs. Please place in an envelope marked Knutson family and place in the offering place.

#### 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

# **Downsizing**

Have you noticed how many books there are about ways to get rid of clutter? But doesn't buying a book about decluttering only add to our possessions? Downsizing, or moving from a larger house to a smaller space, is something many people experience. Sometimes they do it willingly by making a change in their living situation as their needs change. At other times, downsizing is unexpected but necessary due to the loss of a job or the process of aging. Some people love to declutter and take their belongings to a thrift shop. Others dread going through their possessions and making decisions about what to pass along. They quickly feel overwhelmed.

From Isaiah to the psalm to Luke's gospel, today's readings center on getting rid of our sin. Not just downsizing it, but truly getting rid of it for good. Jesus invites Zacchaeus to come down from his perch in a tree. He invites himself over to the chief tax collector's home. As onlookers grumble about Jesus' choice of a dinner companion, Zacchaeus offers to give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back the people he has stolen from. Something about being near Jesus makes Zacchaeus want to change his ways. Perhaps he longs for the forgiveness and freedom that come from being made right with God. Jesus confirms that Zacchaeus is forgiven when he declares that salvation has come to his house, acknowledging that he is a "son of Abraham" (Luke 19:9).

When we open ourselves to Jesus' loving forgiveness, won through his cross and resurrection, like Zacchaeus we get to trade the title "sinner" for "child of God." Jesus gives us the forgiveness and freedom to downsize our selfish ways and upsize our service to our neighbor. That's a beautiful new way of life that can't be taught by a book on decluttering. It's a way of life and service that we joyfully share with others.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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