

## **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection, self-examination, and private confession to God.*

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** “Give Thanks for Saints”

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

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.

## **First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17**

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup>And 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, <sup>12</sup>singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I 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.

<sup>15</sup>For 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.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for 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.”

Here ends the First Reading.

## **Psalm: Psalm 43**

- <sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O God,  
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;  
    deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- <sup>2</sup>For you are the God of my strength; why have you rejected me,  
    and why do I wander in such gloom  
        while the enemy oppresses me?
- <sup>3</sup>Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,  
    and bring me to your holy hill and to your sanctuary;
- <sup>4</sup>that I may go to the altar of God,  
to the God of my joy and gladness;  
    and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- <sup>5</sup>Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,  
and why are you so disquieted within me?  
    Put your trust in God,  
    for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help and my God.

## **Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Here ends the Second Reading

## **Gospel Acclamation**

## **Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12**

The Good News according to Matthew, the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter

<sup>1</sup>Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; <sup>3</sup>therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup>They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. <sup>6</sup>They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. <sup>8</sup>But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. <sup>9</sup>And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. <sup>10</sup>Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. <sup>11</sup>The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup>All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** “In Our Day of Thanksgiving”

## **CREED**

**All Saints Sunday 2020**

God of the living, may our prayer rise before you as incense, and these loved ones from our community whom we name before you this morning:

Lillian Carter

Martha Hochstetler

Peggy Preston

Jack Stears

Richard Chrisman

Eunice Outman

Harold Seymour

Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation gathered before your throne in your ceaseless praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us. Receive our prayer, Good Lord.

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. Receive our prayer, Good Lord.

Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs

and seek our common good. Keep our election safe and our country peaceful, and keep us all ever-mindful that you are God, regardless of the outcome. Receive our prayer, Good Lord.

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. We ask for you to bless and comfort Nancy, John Jacobs, Paige Brown, Mike and Lynn M, Andy C, Glen Carlson, Gary, Carol, & Jeff Monnard, Katie Papke, Michael Carlson, Gayle Kern, Misha Gottesman, Deb & Jean Hart, Deb Best, Steve, Janis Jones, Carol Deller, Vicki DeMeyer, Chariece Miller, Avery Smith, Greg Lusk, Matthew Carlson and his family, and the friends and family of Jim Brouse & Butch Seymour. Receive our prayer, Good Lord.

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all the missions of our synod. Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Receive our prayer, Good Lord.

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year, especially Lillian Carter, Martha Hochstetler, Peggy Preston, Jack Stears, Richard Chrisman, and Eunice Rockwell Outman. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Receive our prayer, Good Lord.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*Please remain in place and share the peace with one another by waving at the people around you.*

## **OFFERING**

When we give our offerings, we are offering to God a portion of what God has first given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Take a moment to consider the ways God has blessed you this week. Where have you seen God's gift of resurrection and new life at work? For what are you thankful? What can you offer from the blessings in your life? If you are going to give a monetary offering, our offering plates are placed around the sanctuary – please leave your offering in one of them as you leave.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **VERBA (WORDS OF INSTITUTION)**

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**

### **COMMUNION**

*The Body of Christ, given for you.*

*The Blood of Christ, shed for you.*

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of  the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN:** “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

### **SENDING**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.