



Worship for Sunday, November 1, 2020 - All Saints Day
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

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 all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

PRELUDE - "Jerusalem, My Happy Home" arr. George Shearing

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

**C: we confess that we are not awake for you
we are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of your siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your community,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the doors to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **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 (Read by: Joe Ferguson)

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

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."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3 (Read by: Joe Ferguson)

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

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.

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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE - “Who Are Your Saints?”

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY - "For All the Saints"



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 below.
 6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the
 7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
 Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; ..
 saints triumphant rise in bright array; the
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host, ..



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 thou, in the darkness dread, their one true light.
 King of glory passes on his way.
 sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:



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

THANKSGIVING FOR SAINTS

(During this portion of worship we invite you to light a candle)

P: O God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world.

As we pray, we know that we are surrounded by this great, rejoicing cloud of witnesses. Yet even as we name these holy ancestors, we thank God for others whose names we never knew or have forgotten, who showed us the meaning of life in Christ. We remember our loved ones who have lived and died in faith

(Brief Silence for reflection)

We also remember those from the St. Stephen the Martyr faith community who have completed their baptismal journey this past year: Carol Drover, Joyce Hryniewicki, Jean Ott, Herman Riedasch, Roy Sell.

C: We give thanks for the living and witness of these saints.

P: Holy God, we honor these, our ancestors in faith and members of our family.

We, too, seek to do your will: guide us.

We, too, desire to be your servants; strengthen us.

We, too, long to know you clearly; teach us.

And in time, bring us to our eternal home of peace and joy.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Let us remember all the saints who have served the church and the world as we offer our prayers to God, responding to each petition with the words "Save us from all our troubles."

A brief silence.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints who have ministered in your church. Bless all who minister during this difficult time. Hear our prayer, O God,

C: save us from all our troubles.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints who lived in communion with animals, with the earth and the seas. Bless the earth, that all creatures will live out your intention for their place in creation. Hear our prayer, O God.

C: save us from all our troubles.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints who were peacemakers. Give us new government authorities who strive for peace between and within their nations. Hear our prayer, O God.

C: save us from all our troubles.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints who strove the equality and justice. 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. Hear our prayer, O God.

C: save us from all our troubles.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints who worked to renew society. Give us now persons who will struggle against prejudice, lethargy, and evil, and will work to improve the lives of others. Hear our prayer, O God.

C: save us from all our troubles.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints who ministered to the needy. Give us now people who will care for those in need. We pray for those in need, the war-torn, the unemployed, those who experience discrimination, those who are weighed down with anxiety, and those who needs are known only to you. Hear our prayer, O God.

C: save us from all our troubles.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints who nursed the sick. Support physicians, nurses, and all medical staff, especially as they confront the continuing crisis of the coronavirus. Hear our prayer, O God.

C: save us from all our troubles.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the faithful who have suffered in body, mind, or spirit. Give wholeness to the sick, especially to those with the coronavirus. Send your healing power on those whose names we call out to you now... Hear our prayer, O God.

C: save us from all our troubles.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We praise you, O God, for all the saints, both the famous and the forgotten, who lived in faith and now live in you. Bring us at the last with them to be in your triune presence. Hear our prayer, O God,

C: Save us from all our troubles.

P: Blessings and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, O God forever and ever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

**P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.**

OFFERTORY *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

OFFERING PRAYER

**P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your every self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
C: Amen.**

BLESSING

**P: May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthen us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!**

The Blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - "Benedictus" *by Max Reger*

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KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Melissa Cooper, Joyce Gagliano, Greg Guiliani, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson,
Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech,
Joan Retzlaff, Rob Rutzen, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Steve, son of Louise Becker
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff	Richard Kurcharski, father of Jenny Resterhouse
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Robert Goist, friend of Denise Sanders
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Sharon Maschke, sister in law of Pam Maschke
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock	Finn Morgan, great-grandson of Shirley & Bob Lieske
The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller	