



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



November 2, 2025

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Berceuse

Vierne

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We’d love to meet you, or if there’s anything you’d like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the live chat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

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.
 Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #427

For All Your Saints, O Lord



- 1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
- 2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
- 3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
- 4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new
- 5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,



who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
 who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
 learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
 that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.
 the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

GREETING

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

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

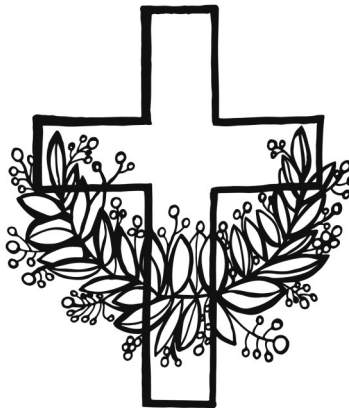
Holy God,
giver of blessing to hungry and hated,
over turner of ordered tables
of friendship and enmity:
teach us a new way of being
beyond reward,
beyond revenge;
that we may do to others
as we would have them do to us;
through Jesus Christ, who prays for all who crucify him.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children are invited forward for a time together.



THANKSGIVING FOR ALL SAINTS

Cantor: *Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting*

All: Refrain



Names are read, and we repeat the refrain

After all names are read, the cantor continues:

You alone, O God, are immortal, the creator and maker of all that breathes; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth we shall return. For when we were created, you said, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

(The refrain is then sung one final time)

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.

¹¹ 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, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ 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; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²⁰ 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,²¹ 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.²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 149

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



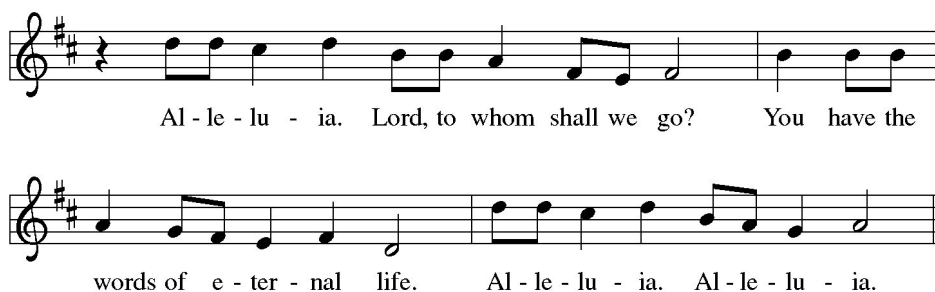
Psalm Tone



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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



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.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰ Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ 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.

²⁵ “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 “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

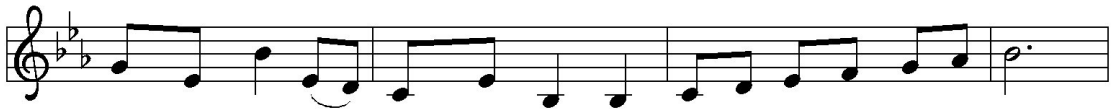
The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #426 *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



- 1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, sing the res - ur - rec - tion song!
- 2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing all that eye has yet per - ceived!
- 3 Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who once was dead.



Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry, to the for - mer days be - long.
Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing nev - er that full joy con - ceived.
Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es! Child of God, lift up your head!



All a - round the clouds are break - ing, soon the storms of time shall cease;
God has prom - ised, Christ pre - pares it, there on high our wel - come waits.
Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won - ders crowd on faith; what joy un - known,



in God's like - ness we a - wak - en, know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
when, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

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.

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations. Further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

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

A brief silence.

God of all that is, delight in the praises of your people and revive the spirit of your church. Move through us with boldness so that we proclaim the gospel of Christ throughout the world. Renew and revive pastors, deacons, and lay leaders.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the beginning, give us the courage to advocate for environmental policy that will ensure a viable future for generations to come. Restore desolate places to health and flourishing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all our days, guide the leaders of governments, nations, municipalities, and all those seeking office. Accompany election officials and volunteers. Dismantle injustice and oppression wherever it is found. In Canada and our United States, protect your creation, inspire citizens to a renewed care for the common good, and equip your church to bear witness to your love and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort in troubled times, we pray for those in need of protection and care.

Trusting that you are constant in mercy, protect those who seek safety and solace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of what is yet to come, encourage and inspire those who give their time, talent, and treasure in service to your church. By their commitment, further the work of ministry in this place and uplift your gospel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Caring Lord, you provide for your children in myriad ways. When we are anxious, suffering, confused, grieving, or overwhelmed, you send Stephen Ministers to walk with us, offering love and understanding. Thank you for the nine Stephen Ministers who now have precious care receivers and the seven Stephen Ministers who are patiently waiting for us to contact a pastor or a Stephen Minister. Give us the insight and strength to open ourselves to this gift. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of time and space, we give thanks for the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope of our eternal unity in Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with

Daybreak Shelter (including Men's Resale Shop) daybreakshelter.org
and **Gabriel's Horn (in conjunction with Family Promise of P.C.)**

www.gabrielshelter.org



If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use [our CLC app](#) (download at clcvalpo.org/app).

OFFERTORY (8:00 am) *Oh, That I had a Thousand Voices*

Manz

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am): *Angels of Heaven*

Siegfried

The angels of heaven are marching around the borders of Zion's holy ground; their music harmonious how it doth ring, and this is the heavenly song that they sing: 'Holy, holy, holiness unto the Lord, love ye, love ye, love ye one another'.

OFFERING HYMN ELW #686 *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Musical notation for the hymn 'We Give Thee but Thine Own' (ELW #686). It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a five-line staff. Below the first staff, the lyrics '1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;' are aligned with the notes. The second staff continues the melody, and below it, the lyrics 'all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.' are aligned with the notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes with some ties. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff also ends with a double bar line. The third and fourth staves end with a final double bar line.

The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is more rhythmic than the previous section, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third and fourth staves end with a final double bar line.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

There is a place for you at the table of God.
Come, receive the food that does not perish,
a taste of life eternal.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

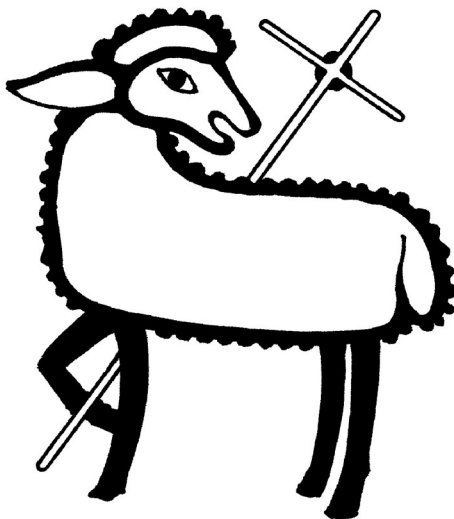
The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF 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.



COMMUNION MUSIC

ELW #428 *Give Thanks for Saints*



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -



round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their



while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

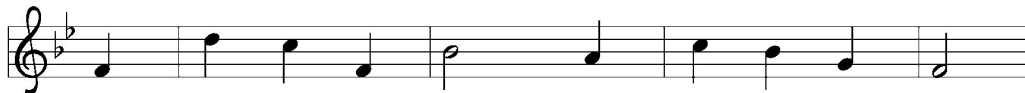


ly they speak— the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own— God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

ELW #418 *Rejoice in God's Saints*



1 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!
 2 Some march with e - vents to turn them God's way;
 3 Re - joice in those saints, un - praised and un - known,
 4 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!



A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.
 some need to with - draw, the bet - ter to pray;
 who bear some - one's cross, or shoul - der their own:
 A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.



Their faith in ac - quir - ing the hab - it of prayer,
 some car - ry the gos - pel through fire and through flood:
 they share our com - plain - ing, our com - forts, our cares:
 In lov - ing, in liv - ing, they prove it is true:



their depth of a - dor - ing, Lord, help us to share.
 our world is their par - ish, their pur - pose is God.
 what pa - tience in car - ing, what cour - age is theirs!
 their way of self - giv - ing, Lord, leads us to you.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

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
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #422

For All the Saints

(st. 1-ALL; 2 st. – LOW VOICES; st. 5 – Harmony; st. 6 – HIGH VOICES; st. 7 – ALL)



- 1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 below.
6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
7 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; . .

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.

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!



3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine, we fee - bly strug - gle,
4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the ear the
5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west; soon, soon to faith - ful



they in glo - ry shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are
dis - tant tri - umph song, and hearts are brave a - gain and arms are
ser - vants com - eth rest; . . . sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the



thine. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
strong.
blest.

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.



Worship Leaders

Acolyte	<u>8:00 a.m.</u> Reid Venstrom	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Lector	Erin Schmidgall	Doug Schmidt
Prayer Assistant	Betty Luckett	Phil Hahn
Communion Assistants	Erin Schmidgall Phyllis Schroeder	Becky Fry Phil Hahn
Ushers	Scott Steinwart Don MacMillan	Doc Knauff
Sound/Light	Sam Venstrom	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream		
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Cantors	Mike & Lois Felten (10:30 a.m.)	
Worship Participants	Sanctuary Choir	
Communion Baker	The Bull Family	



Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Canada, and the United States of America.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the vast expanse of North America with its resources and varied landscapes; may they be preserved, enjoyed and used wisely
- those who are its original inhabitants – First Nations and Native Americans
- church-related organizations that strongly advocate for justice, and those that provide for new immigrants and refugees today, as well as for others who are poor and vulnerable
- ecumenical and interfaith engagements which are occurring in many communities that previously were mainly white and Christian.

We **pray** for:

- churches facing new challenges, that they may continue to witness boldly to the gospel in evolving multicultural, multireligious and secular contexts
- indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them
- new immigrants, that they will continue to be welcomed in these countries, and that policies will serve the common good
- effectively countering systemic greed that exploits communities and natural resources
- government leaders that they would advance justice, human rights, and peace for all within these countries and in the rest of the world.

COMMEMORATIONS Week of November 2, 2025

All Saints Day

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. We remember all who have died in the faith and now serve God around the heavenly throne.

November 3

Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

November 7

John Christian Frederick Heyer, died 1873; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, died 1719;

Ludwig Nommensen, died 1918; missionaries

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India, Ziegenbalg was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities who favored a different missionary style. He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. Nommensen was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary. Working among the Batak people, he translated the scriptures into their language, and honored their native culture.

A Great Reward

It's a dramatic scene: that moment in a movie when a large family comes together for the reading of the last will and testament. Usually, a lawyer sits facing the assembly with a pile of papers. The family members sit on the edge of their seats in anticipation. As the camera pans around the room, we can imagine their thoughts: "What will I get?" "Which one of us will keep the mansion?" "How much will my inheritance be?"

This typical scene of "reading the will" gets flipped upside down on All Saints Sunday. Yes, All Saints Sunday is about the reality of death and what happens next. But on this day, instead of looking at a lawyer, we look to Jesus. We give thanks for the inheritance Jesus has already made possible for us through his death on the cross and his resurrection to eternal life.

Our inheritance from Jesus isn't only hope for the future. It's the fuel that helps us live today. When we are poor, we can trust that one day, God will give us his kingdom. When we are hungry, we can trust that God will fill us. Jesus' words assure us that he is with us now and that our reward is great in heaven. In him, God has conquered sin and death. Our inheritance as children of God is secure.

Jesus' words are a comfort to us. His promise about our inheritance fills us with hope, especially when we hear the names of those who have died in the past year read aloud on All Saints Sunday. Even as we grieve their loss, we trust that their reward is great in heaven. Because of God's reconciling love for all creation, the inheritance of eternal life belongs to us and to the saints who have gone before us.

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