



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2026 9:30am

Rooted in our Tradition, Open to Yours

Welcome and Prelude

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations,  
whose compassion never slumbers.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation.**

**We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.**

**We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully  
into relationship with you and others.**

**We are not awake to the coming of your reign.**

**Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy.**

**Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his  
mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

**Amen.**



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.  
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

## Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

## Greeting

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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### 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.**

## Remembrance of All the Saints

Let us remember all the saints before God.

We praise and bless you, O holy Trinity. You have taught your church that it is an ageless communion of saints. We thank you for gathering those who faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised, and now for adding us who celebrate the love of your Christ for the redemption of the world. Prepare a place for us among those who are already with you. Help us remember them as an encouragement to saintly living, exciting us to love, in anticipation of an eternal reunion. Christ says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart,

**And you will find rest for your souls.**

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**And you will find rest for your souls."**

Those who have died since All Saints Day 2025:

**Anna Harper**

October 1, 1933 – December 23, 2025

**Elaine Hedrick**

January 4, 1933 – December 24, 2025

**Virginia Dorsey**

June 17, 1937 – January 4, 2026

**Tom Marttala**

October 17, 1960 – May 15, 2026

**Jean Byce**

May 12, 1929 – June 15, 2026

God is the creator and Redeemer of souls. We thank God for our memories and our living hopes; for the sacred ties that bind us to the unseen world; for the dear and holy dead who surround us like a cloud of witnesses.

## **Micah 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets  
who lead my people astray,  
who cry "Peace"  
when they have something to eat  
but declare war against those  
who put nothing into their mouths.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,  
and darkness to you, without revelation.  
The sun shall go down upon the prophets,  
and the day shall be black over them;

<sup>7</sup> the seers shall be disgraced  
and the diviners put to shame;  
they shall all cover their lips,  
for there is no answer from God.

<sup>8</sup> But as for me, I am filled with power,  
with the spirit of the LORD,  
and with justice and might,  
to declare to Jacob his transgression  
and to Israel his sin.

<sup>9</sup> Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob  
and chiefs of the house of Israel,  
who abhor justice  
and pervert all equity,

<sup>10</sup> who build Zion with blood  
and Jerusalem with wrong!

<sup>11</sup> Its rulers give judgment for a bribe;  
its priests teach for a price;  
its prophets give oracles for money;  
yet they lean upon the LORD and say,  
"Surely the LORD is with us!

No harm shall come upon us.”

<sup>12</sup> Therefore because of you

Zion shall be plowed as a field;

Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,

and the mountain of the temple a wooded height.

## Today's Reading **1 Thessalonians 2:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

<sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel: **Matthew 23:1-12** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses's 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 brothers and sisters. <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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*~Please remain seated until the meal~*

# For All the Saints

ELW 422 vs 1,2,6,7



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 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 dread, 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 warfare 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 - disc the



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

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. **Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways. **Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. **Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness, especially Linda, Jack, Inge, Dave & Pam, Judy, Scott, Nancy, Ted & Jacqui, Dan & Mary, Beth, Janet, Todd, Mary, Doris, Bud, Donna, Jill, Amelia, Jareth and all those we hold in our hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. **Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors: Elaine, Anna, Ginny, Tom and Jean. **Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

### Meal

#### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

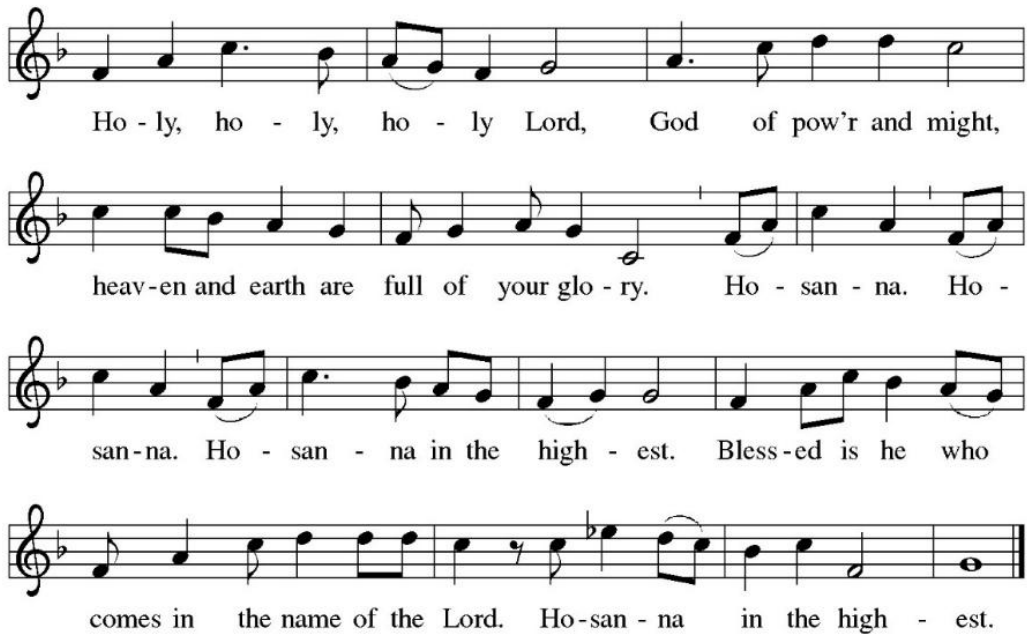
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### 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; who on this day overcomes death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opens to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



### The 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.

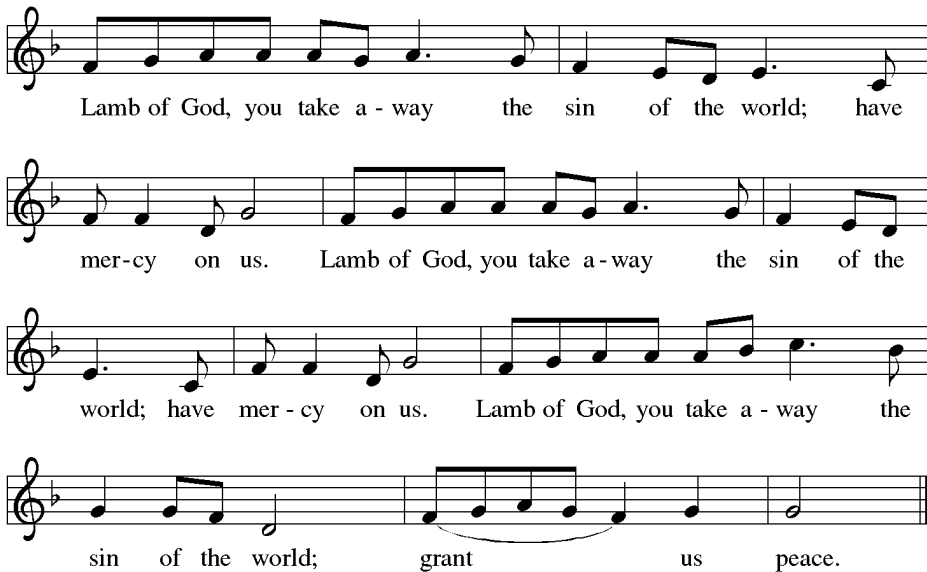
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## The 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.**

## Communion

*All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. We ask children who have not had First Communion instruction, or adults who do not wish to receive communion, to keep their hands folded and they will receive a blessing.*



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.

## Post-Communion Prayer

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.  
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly.  
Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

ELW 873 vs 1-4

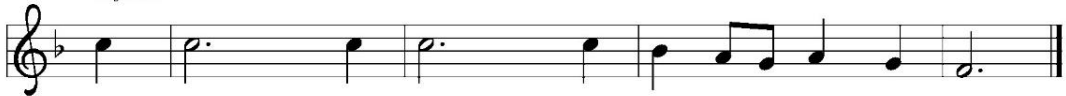


- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;  
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth  
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



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 - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

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*

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Thanks be to God.**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

**Thanks be to God.**

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