SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

EMAIL: info@solomonslutheran.org
WEB SITE: www.solomonslutheran.org
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2022

November 6, 2022

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.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

REMEMBRANCE OF ALL 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.

The candles will float in the water of the Baptismal Font as a reminder of our Baptisms. St. Paul writes to the Romans. ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Candles are lit for the individuals who died since last All Saints Day and had a service from Solomons. A candle is also lit for any friends or family members you have lost to death that you mourn.

Paul Skelly
Alan Johnson
Bud Armstrong
Gertie Reichard
Annmarie Swartz
Connie Bikle
Loved Ones not named

GATHERING SONG Holy God, We Praise Your Name (all verses) Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900 Music: GROSSER GOTT, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774

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.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

A reading from Daniel.

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.

¹In 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: ²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶I 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: ¹⁷"As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 149

(sung responsively between choir and congregation, beginning with the choir)



Psalm tone reproduced from Psalter for Worship Year C \odot 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

²Let 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.

⁴For the LORD takes pleasure | in the people and adorns the | poor with victory.

⁵Let the faithful re- joice in triumph; let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶Let 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,
8to 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 ones. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:11-23

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

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

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray 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, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, ²¹far 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. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Caribbean traditional

Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004. All rights reserved

GOSPEL: Luke 6:20-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²⁰Then [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. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to 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 what their ancestors did to the false prophets. ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON PASTOR BARB

HYMN OF THE DAY Shall We Gather at the River (all verses) Shall We Gather at the River



- 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.



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.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 CHURCH (Please respond.)

P: Lord, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY



Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

Text and music @ 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. International @ secured.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

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.

By the witness of your 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 all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Dios de glo - ria y San-to, san - to, san - to po der. Ho-ly, ho - ly, God of pow - er ho - ly and might, glo - ria. glo - ry. cie - los tie - rra pro cla man tu У heav - en and full of earth are your cie - los. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho san-na the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na los cie - los. high - est. Ho - san - na, the ho - san - na, ho - san-na in Ben - di - to a - quel el Dios. que vie - ne en nom - bre de Bless-ed is the one the God. who comes in name of our Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na the high - est. cie - los. los Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en

ho - san-na

the

high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Ho - san - na,

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.

ho - san - na,

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray with song as Jesus taught us.

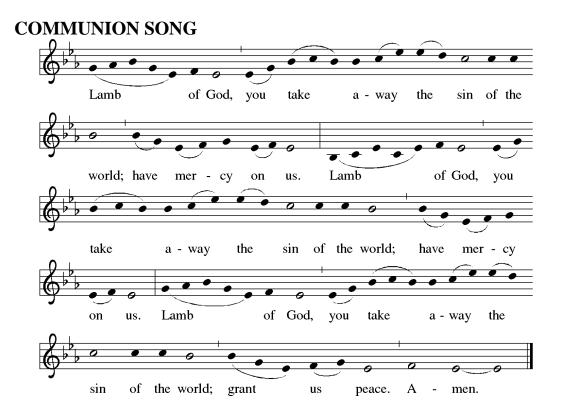
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the tray.



HYMN DURING COMMUNION For the Bread Which You Have Broken (all verses)

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



- For the bread which you have bro-ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- By this prom-ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re-stored,
- With the saints who now a dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n-ly board,
- In your ser vice, Lord, de fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord. to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord. may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord. the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1631 Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004. All rights reserved

COMMUNION VISITATION TEAM BLESSING

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson Text and music © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

USED BY PERMISSION. CCLI #11066173 Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004. All rights reserved

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

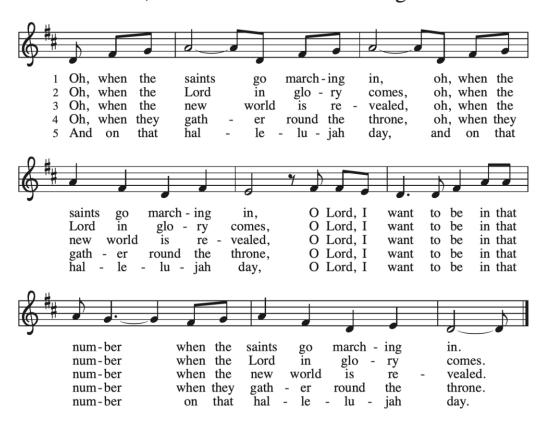
God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Oh*, *When the Saints Go Marching In* (all verses) Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



Text: African American spiritual

Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004. All rights reserved

SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE with license #A-719004. All rights reserved.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Rev. Barb Barry		
Cell Phone Number	717-357-3150		
Email Address			
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org		
Organist			
Head Usher			
Acolyte	Janice McEntire		
Lector	Rich McEntire		
Securing Offering	Bernie Harris & Sam Mull		
Communion Set-Up			
Communion Clean-Up			
Communion Bread	Bill & Lilly Chiado		
Communion Assist	Ron Coldsmith & Ilona Laney		
Attendance last Sunday	41		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Prayer requests for the following Family & Friends of Betty Sterner, Sr. Barbara Barry, Greg Steinour, Betty Amt, Tana Vance, Jim and Carole Darr, Barbara Beckner, Tracy Fredericks, Louis Norman, Lanny Haugh, Heather Carman Shull, Jenny Barnes, Ray Rotz, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Patricia Furry, Tina Smith, Nancy Marshall, Milissa Fogle, Marie Dovey, Beth Floyd, Jean Jackson, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Patricia Yetter, Carol Locke, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Darrell Veilleux, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. Note: At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Help will be needed to prepare and serve food for the Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 19. See sign-up sheets in the Sunday School Room.

Join us for a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m. Those attending are invited to bring canned food and/or a monetary donation for Maranatha Food Pantry. There will be a dessert fellowship after the service. You are invited to bring a dessert to share. Solomons will provide drinks.

You are invited to Bible Study from 10 to 11 each Wednesday in the Conference Room of the Fellowship Center. This year we are praying through the Psalms. Each week is stand-alone so come when your schedule permits. Christian Ed is a life-long journey of discovering who God is and who are as followers of Jesus. Making time to learn God's Word is a mark of discipleship. Hope to see you there!

Antietam Battlefield Luminaries Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 10 AM. The 33rd annual Antietam Battlefield Illumination will take place on Saturday, December 3. This is a very fulfilling and emotional event which honors the 23,110 casualties which occurred during the battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Volunteers are greatly needed, to set up and light the luminaries. Solomon's is responsible for setting up and lighting approximately 720 luminaries. Volunteers should be at our field (by the lookout tower), no later 10 AM. A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the Sunday School bulletin board. For further information please contact Bonney Coldsmith or Wayne Norman .

Maranatha Paper Drive: During the month of November, will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. Paper products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps. Items needed: toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, hand wipes, diapers, etc. Please place the items in the gray tote under the coat rack next to the mailboxes. If you have any questions, contact Rob Floyd.

Congregational Meeting Sunday November 13: The annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on November 13. The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve a 2023 operating budget and to elect members to the congregation council. A proposed budget was sent to all member households and is available in the office. Please review the budget before the meeting. You may contact council president Ron Coldsmith with any questions. Since a quorum is needed all Solomon's voting members are encouraged to attend the meeting either personally or by Zoom on November 13. Zoom information will be sent via email before the meeting.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be Saturday, November 19 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, filling, gravy, corn, peas & carrots, cranberry relish, applesauce, roll & butter, plus apple and pumpkin pie. Water, coffee, and hot tea will be served. Cost: Adults - \$15; Children 5-11 yrs. \$7.00; Under 5-free. Flyers for the Thanksgiving dinner are available on the table in the Sunday School room for the taking.

There are extra poinsettia order forms available in the pamphlet rack in the Narthex.

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:00PM.

Hurricane Relief: In response to Hurricane Ian, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is partnering with the Florida-Bahamas, Southeastern, North Carolina and South Carolina synods, as well as Lutheran Services Carolinas, to provide both immediate and long-term support. LDR anticipates relief will include water, food supplies, tarps, cleaning materials and other needs for those who have lost or damaged homes. Please hold the victims and relief workers daily in your prayers. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to provide aid. Prayerfully consider a generous donation to provide tangible support. Make your check out to Solomons Lutheran Church with the memo space clearly marked "Hurricane Relief." If you are using cash, clearly mark the envelope. Thank you for your care and support of God's people.

Sunday School is in Session - Adult Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. Children's Church will be held during morning worship and will meet downstairs at 10:20 a.m. Confirmation Class will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Center.

Many thanks to Edna Harris for all the time and energy she gave to fulfill her duties as treasurer for the past two years. Edna will be stepping down from treasurer at the end of the year. Prayerfully consider if you feel called to serve in this ministry.

Power Pack Meals: The Power Pack Meal program at New Franklin Elementary School is up and running. Currently 24 students are being sent home each Friday with food to last them through the weekend. The need for donations is great. Any <u>individual size</u> container of vegetables, fruit, breakfast items, meals (mac & cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc.), juice pouches, Yahoo chocolate drink, 8 oz. bottle water are welcome. Please place your donation in the gray Social Ministry tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are welcome, make your check payable to Solomon's with Power Pack Meals in the memo line.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for the rest of the year will be on the side table in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

2022 Order Form



Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Christmas Poinsettias is asked to fill out the following form and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate (beside the Baptismal Font), along with a check make payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Poinsettia Order." Deadline for **red, or marble (pink & white)** poinsettias is November 20, 2022. Cost is \$8.00. This is a 6 ½ inch pot (4-7 blooms)

The Christmas Poinsettias in Memory and Honor of Family and Friends have been donated by:

	(name)		
	Red _		Marble
Total amount enclosed		Total Poins	ettias ordered
In memory of			
In memory of			
In honor of			
In honor of			

Poinsettias must be taken home on Dec. 24th *after the evening service*. Extra order forms are available in the pamphlet rack at both doors.

NOVEMBER 6, 2022 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We give thanks for all the saints.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 6:20-31	Blessed are you who weep
Monday	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Daniel's vision
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:11-23	Paul's prayer
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Greetings to the Corinthians
Thursday	Psalm 34:1-10	Honor the Lord
Friday	Philippians 4:10-23	Paul sends thanks and greetings
Saturday	Psalm 149	A new song of praise
Sunday	Luke 20:27-38	Jesus speaks of the resurrection

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. **Ephesians** 1:15-16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for the saints who have come before us and those who serve with us through Christ Jesus, who reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Praise the Lord for all the saints, past, present, and future, and for this gift of food that sustains us as your beloved children through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be given a spirit of wisdom as you come to know the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 1:17)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you hear the word, "saint," who or what do you think of and why?
- As a follower of Jesus, you are a saint. How does knowing this impact your life?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

When the Poor Ones



DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 1:11-23.

This is a letter from Paul to the Ephesians. They are people who have heard the gospel and believed. They have been "marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit" (v.13), a reference to the act of baptism that they received. It marks God's pledge to us for a divine inheritance as "God's own people" (v. 14). This is what it means to be saints, people called out and set apart to trust God's promise of eternal hope through Christ. Each year we celebrate All Saints Sunday, a time to recall those loved ones who have died and have been embraced forever in God's promise of eternal life, and received "the riches of his [God's] glorious inheritance among the saints" (v. 18). It is also a time to be reminded that we, too, are saints and God's own people now, people equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit to love all people and all the world through the crucified and risen Christ. It is a message that comforted those who have died in the faith and that comforts us and energizes us today.

Discuss: Who do you remember with thanksgiving for their life of faith in Christ? Pray: God of our future, we thank you for the hope that is ours and that you have promised to all your saints through Christ our Lord, the one who in love conquered death. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how do you show gratitude for all the saints in your life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Set aside time in your home to light candles in remembrance of Christian friends or family who have died. Light the candles, spend a moment in silence, and then name those saints you are thinking about and tell stories and share memories about them. Before extinguishing the candles, pray: Lord God, we thank you for [names you talked about] and ask that you comfort those who mourn, through our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.