

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*"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 5, 2023**

**November 5, 2023**

**All Saints Sunday**

*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.*

## **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. *<sup>4</sup>Therefore 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.*

*Jere Brehm  
Clayton Schwartz  
Loved Ones not Named*

## GATHERING SONG *Shall We Gather at the River* (ELW 423)



- 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.

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

## 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.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Sung Twice) He Is Exalted (W&P 55)**

He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.

He is ex-alt-ed, for - ev - er ex-alt-ed, and I will praise his

name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall

reign; hea - ven and earth re - joi - ce in his ho - ly

name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high.

Chord symbols: F, F/A, B♭, C/B♭, B♭/C, C, Dsus, D/C, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am, B♭, F/A, Gm, B♭/F, E♭M<sup>7</sup>, B♭/C, F, B♭/F, F.

## 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.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM      *God's Peace*

### FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation.

*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.*

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

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

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

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

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

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

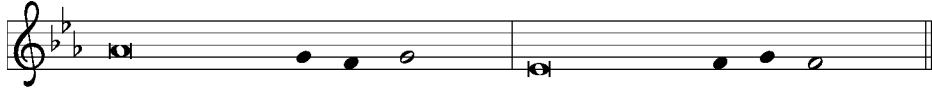
<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

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



- <sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD<sup>1</sup> at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be<sup>1</sup> in my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup>**I will glory<sup>1</sup> in the LORD;**  
**let the lowly hear<sup>1</sup> and rejoice.**
- <sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness<sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's<sup>1</sup> name together.
- <sup>4</sup>**I sought the LORD, who<sup>1</sup> answered me**  
**and delivered me from<sup>1</sup> all my terrors.**
- <sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD<sup>1</sup> and be radiant,  
and let not your faces<sup>1</sup> be ashamed.
- <sup>6</sup>**I called in my affliction, and<sup>1</sup> the LORD heard me**  
**and saved me from<sup>1</sup> all my troubles.**
- <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who<sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and de-<sup>1</sup>livers them.
- <sup>8</sup>**Taste and see that the<sup>1</sup> LORD is good;**  
**happy are they who take ref-<sup>1</sup>uge in God!**
- <sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
for those who fear the<sup>1</sup> LORD lack nothing.
- <sup>10</sup>**The lions are in want and<sup>1</sup> suffer hunger,**  
**but those who seek the LORD lack nothing<sup>1</sup> that is good.**
- <sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life<sup>1</sup> of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will<sup>1</sup> not be punished.

## SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from 1 John.

*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.*

- <sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.
- <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Open Our Eyes, Lord* (W&P 113)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. Chords are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: "O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see Je - sus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to lis - ten. O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus."

D G<sup>2</sup> G Em<sup>7</sup>/A A<sup>7</sup>  
O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
Je - sus, to reach out and touch

Em A<sup>7</sup> G/D D<sup>2</sup> D  
him, and say that we love him.

DM<sup>7</sup> A/G G Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>  
O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

G/D D A Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> Em/D D  
Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**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.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

**SERMON "Which one are you feeding?"**

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



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!

Text: William J. Irons, 1812–1883, alt.  
Music: MISSISSIPPI, William Bradley Roberts, b. 1947  
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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: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

## **PEACE**

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

## OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hopkins) (W&P 35)*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve

you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

I might be re - newed. So fill me and

heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty,  
 all things belong to you.  
 We bring your gifts to the table,  
 that all might be fed.  
 Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
 Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray in 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**

Jesus invites you to this table.  
Come, eat and live.

## 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 basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.*

## COMMUNION SONG



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, grant us peace.

## HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* (ELW 628)



- 1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?
- 2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant soil!
- 3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual - ly are green;
- 4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do spring;
- 5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.  
there grow such sweet and pleas - ant flow'rs as no - where else are seen.  
there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.  
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent.

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *We Rejoice in the Grace of God* (W&P 151)

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: We re-joyce in the grace of God poured up-on our lives; lov-ing-kind-ness has come to us be-cause of Je-sus Christ. We re-joyce in the grace of God, our hearts o-ver-flow. What a joy to know the grace of God!

Text: Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

Music: WE REJOICE IN THE GRACE, Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**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* (ACS 950)



1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the  
2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the  
3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the  
4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they  
5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that  
Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that  
new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that  
gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that  
hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.  
num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.  
num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.  
num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.  
num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

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## SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor .....	Pastor Michael Allwein
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Linda Berberich
Acolyte .....	Norm Kuykendall
Lector.....	Wayne Dale
Securing Offering .....	Wayne Dale & Brian Coldsmith
Communion Set-Up.....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up .....	Linda Berberich & Kathy Bowen
Communion Bread .....	Linda Berberich
Communion Assist .....	Ron Coldsmith & Peggi Norman
Coffee Station.....	Linda Berberich & Kathy Bowen
Attendance last Sunday.....	46

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of my parents on their 51<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary given by Bo.

**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!

**Prayer requests for the following:** ) *Missy Moreui, Clif Rau, Becky Ensinger, Ron Bunting, Rose Wishard, Bobby Seilhamer, Sam Mull, Lilly Chiado, Bernie Harris, Phyllis Brehm, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Callie Mummert, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: 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.**

### **Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

- November 4 - Coffee Hour Fellowship after worship
- 7 - Worship & Music 7PM
- 9 - Choir Practice 7PM



**If you are in need of pastoral care, please notify Ron Coldsmith, Council President.** Pastor Michael Allwein will provide this care.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** - Pastor Mike will begin an adult Sunday School program beginning next Sunday, November 12th, during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00). He will hold this every Sunday and we will look at one of the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. Bible Study is so very important for our spiritual growth as Christians, so please plan to add this to your Sunday morning schedule. Each week will be self-inclusive, so even if you are unable to attend every week, plan to attend when you are able.

**Christmas Party Luncheon** – Sunday December 10, 2023 after Church. Everyone is invited. Sign-up sheet in the Sunday School room. Menu: Make your own Pizza, Veggie Tray, Chips, Cookies & Ice-Cream, Punch, Coffee, Hot Tea & Water. Join us for good food & fellowship.

**Poinsettia order forms** are available in the pamphlet rack at both doors.

**Congregational Meeting Sunday November 12:** The annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on November 12. The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve a 2024 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 12. Zoom information will be sent via email before the meeting.*

**Praise God! Hallelujah!** Pastor Michael Allwein will be our part-time interim pastor beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please welcome him back.

**If you are not taking your altar flowers home,** please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

**Per our Oct 3 zoom meeting, we set Sunday Nov 19 at 5PM for our joint Thanksgiving Service to be held at New Franklin Assembly of God Church.** Everyone is invited and please bring finger food to share. Blessings, Ron Coldsmith.

**Power Pack Meals:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need starting in September. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups, individual packages of mac-n-cheese, Chef Boyardee, 8 oz bottles of water, juice boxes, and yahoo chocolate drink. Monetary donations are accepted as well, please write "power pack meals" in the memo of your check.

**NOVEMBER 5, 2023**  
**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**



*We are blessed by the saints we have known.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 5:1-12</b>	<b>The Beatitudes</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Revelation 7:9-17</b>	<b>God will wipe away tears</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 John 3:1-3</b>	<b>Our hope in God</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Romans 1:1-15</b>	<b>Prayer of thanksgiving</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalm 16</b>	<b>Psalm of trust</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Colossians 1:24–2:5</b>	<b>Paul’s interest in the Colossians</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 34:1-10, 22</b>	<b>Honor the Lord</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 25:1-13</b>	<b>A parable of the ten bridesmaids</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.* **Matthew 5:4 (NRSV)**

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of grace and glory, you promise us a future filled with peace and joy; we thank you for giving us saints to bless us along our life’s way through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this food we taste and see that you are good. We give you thanks for this meal and all our blessings through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 34:8)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the mercy of God and the power of the Holy Spirit save you from every trouble through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 34:6)

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- In what ways do you feel you have been blessed?
- Is there someone you feel God has placed in your life to bless you? Explain.

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Behold the Host Arrayed in White*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 5:1-12.

The Beatitudes (meaning blessedness) listed in this reading are a series of blessings announced by Jesus. A blessing is defined as a gift or favor bestowed by God. Society often misinterprets a blessing as a possession of the wealthy, the healthy, and the assertive, but Jesus blesses the poor, the sick, and the meek and promises a reversal of fortune. The source of that reversal is God. This includes the work of saints called by God. The saints are the children of God sent to us to heal, to forgive, and to renew life in Jesus' name. As we remember those saints who have come before us, we give thanks that they have been the source of blessings to enrich us, comfort us, and be merciful to us. Their actions reflect the kingdom of God. We take time to give thanks for all the saints, especially those who have personally touched our lives with God's love in Christ. This divine love promises to reverse the way things are to make them consistent with the ways of God.

*Discuss:* Who are some of the saints who have touched your life?

*Pray:* **Eternal God, we thank you for your many blessings, especially those that have come to us through saints we have known and loved through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to bring comfort and hope?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to remember all the saints in our lives, both the living and the dead. Think or talk about memories you have of someone who has blessed your life. Light a candle and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the life of [name]. I am grateful for all the blessings that came to my life through them. In Jesus' name, Amen.**