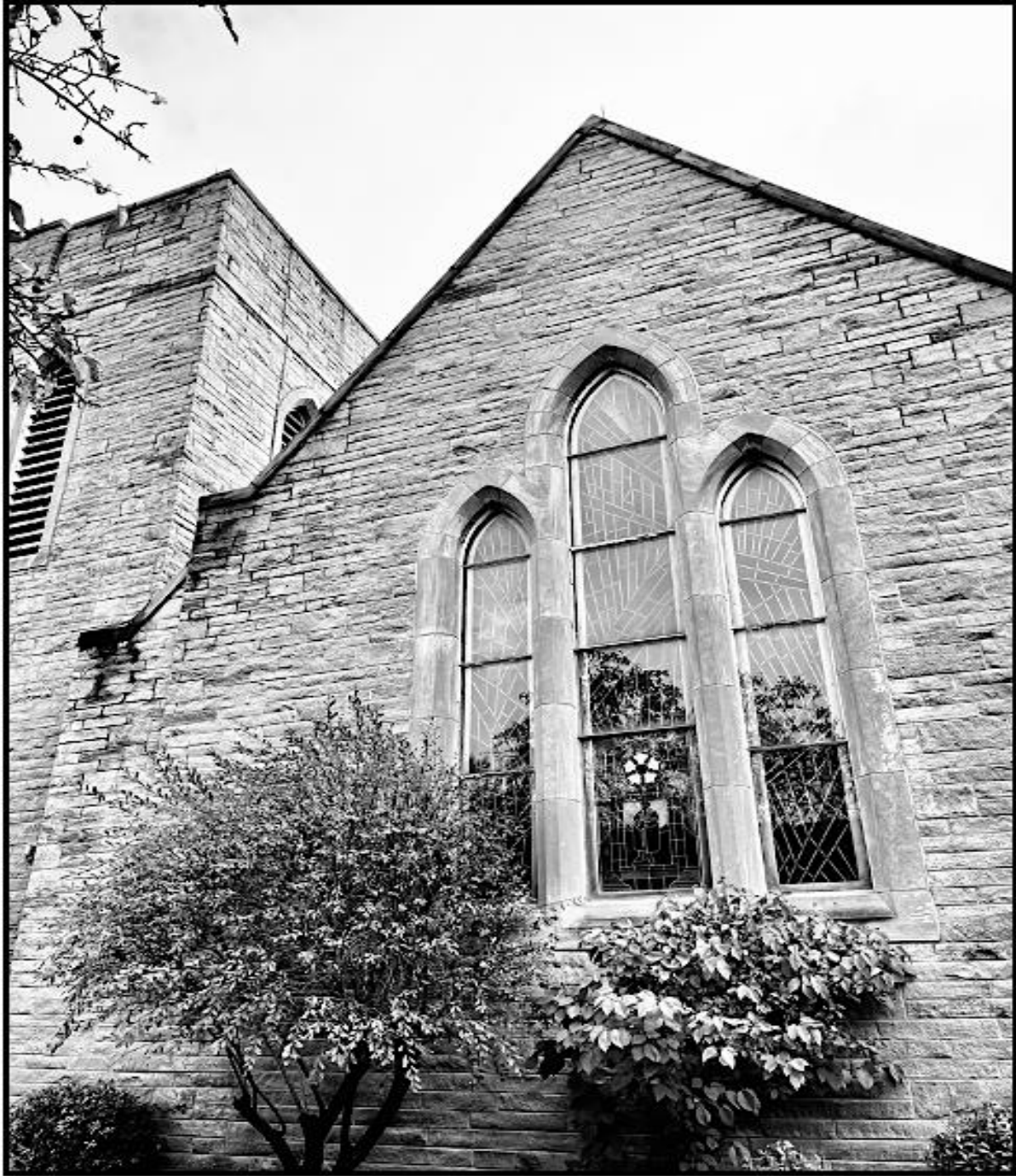


# ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 5, 2023



Christ Lutheran Church - St. Catharines, Ontario

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** Pat Kimpel [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKT19c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**Prayer:** O Almighty God, by whom we are graciously knit together as one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us so to follow Your blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys which You have prepared for those who unfeignedly love You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Matt. 10: 1-10                      Wed.: Matt.10: 16-23                      Friday: Matt.10: 32-39  
Tuesday: Matt. 10: 1-15                      Thurs: Matt. 10: 24-31                      Saturday Matt. 10: 40-42

**Musician:** Louise Gondosch  
**Reader:** Howard Bogusat  
**Greeters:** George & Gail Julie

**EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today: 9:00 to 9:50 a.m.: Coffee Hour in Basement, Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - Worship - All Saints Sunday  
3:00 p.m. – Nicaragua Mission Talk and Slide Show at Grace Lutheran  
Monday: 10:00 -11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice  
Tuesday: 9:30 – 11:00 am. – Precious Moments  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting  
Thursday: 10:00 -11:30 a.m. – SOUL  
7:15 p.m. – Praise Band Practice  
Saturday: REMEMBRANCE DAY  
Next Sunday: Last Day to get your Shoeboxes in

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

- Every Sunday from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.
- **TODAY:** We are learning about how God comes to the mountain in clouds and thunder, fire and smoke and established His covenant with His people, through Moses. There on the mountain God gives Moses His Ten Commandments, loving laws for healthy living for all time. Memory Verse: ***'Love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart.'*** Deuteronomy 11:13 We are learning about how God leads Gideon to reduce his army from 32000 to only 300 strong. Reassured by God, Gideon moves forward and God enables them to defeat the Midianite force armed with just trumpets and torches.
- **Memory Verse: 'The Lord is my helper, I will not fear.'** Heb 13:6
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** We are so excited to be having a program this year! We encourage parents and grandparents to bring children to Sunday School as we will be starting song and bell practices this Sunday.
- **ADVENT CALENDARS:** Please note that we will be doing our Annual Advent Calendars in Sunday School next week November 26th. This is always an exciting event for children. Friends are welcome to join us!



# CHRIST'S CAFÉ

Hope to see you downstairs

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact:

Judy Mason 905-641-7546

**MISSION TALK AND SLIDE SHOW:** The Lutheran Church in Nicaragua –TODAY, November 5, 3:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church (213 Linwell Road). Come hear David Friesen, LCC's Director of Advancement, tell us about the state of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua. Join for the talk and stay for a time of refreshments and fellowship afterwards! Hope to see you there!

**YOUTH & CONFIRMANDS:** Saturday, November 18th in Fisherville. **Jello-on-a-Stick** is where Lutheran youth from Kitchener, Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara come together for a day retreat. The theme is: **"God's Calling in Your Life."** We sing, pray, study, play and eat together, a wonderful opportunity to get to know someone new. We will plan to leave the church by 8:30 a.m. & return by 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. Friends are always welcome to join us! Let Louise, Dan or Val know this week so we can arrange rides.

**LWML-C Zone/National Events:** You are invited to any or all of the events below.

Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 pm – Packaging "Warm feet for the Streets" Care Kits for "Out of the Cold"

Saturday, November 25, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday, December 19, 5:30 pm – Advent/Christmas Potluck (blessing) Dinner & Program



## Photos will be taken:

- Tuesday, November 21
- Wednesday, November 22
- Thursday, November 23
- Friday, November 24

Please sign up at the back of the church for the day and time that best suits you.

Thank You!!

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**--We invite you to join us **Thursday, Nov. 23, 7:15 pm** at Lia's (22 Rampart Dr.) as together we watch '**Under Jakob's Ladder**', a story of Pastor Munoz's great grandfather who was a preacher/teacher in a village in Ukraine. Jakob was arrested for saying the Lord's Prayer at a funeral. The story tells of God's provision for him. Please join us

# Christmas Bazaar

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Support for our Community and around the world!:

- *Out of the Cold;*
- *Mobile Closet;*
- *Start Me Up Niagara*
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- SOUL Ministries
- Our Sponsored Refugee
- Medical Missions
- Haiti
- Nicaragua
- Lutheran Bible Translators

Featuring :

- Baking
- Deli (meat pies, cabbage rolls, preserves, summer sausage)
- Crafts (& gifts)
- Nearly New Table (many Christmas Items)
- Silent Auction (*see Judy Mason for info*)

Served from the Kitchen: Hot Lunch Featuring both DINE IN & TAKE OUT Options

*Please come and Invite your friends!*



Support our efforts to raise funds for Missions. We greatly appreciate your help!

## PLEASE HELP US ADVERTISE:

- ❖ Please take a poster if you have any area (like in a condo or apartment building) where you could post one, or if you could give one to a friend from another church to post there. (extras in the Narthex)
- ❖ Take invitations and please pass them to your friends.

## DONATIONS:

- ❖ Please consider making donations to the **Bake, Deli, or Craft Tables or Judy's Silent Auction** (see her note about that)
- ❖ The **Bake & Deli Tables** will have the same lovely array of items you are used to finding but come early for best selection.
- ❖ ***We would be pleased to receive your donations any time on the Friday (Nov. 24) up until 8 p.m.***
- ❖ Record books will be at the Tables on Friday, to record what you have made for the Bake & Deli. (requested by Public Health) Please write inside.
- ❖ You may price your own, or we will price it on the Friday after it's brought in--your choice. Thank you in advance.
- ❖ Lorraine is suggesting that the **Craft Table** might also become an area that includes gift items. Do you have something you could contribute for that?
- ❖ Any items you may have for the "**Nearly New**" Tables may be brought in at any time and placed in the back-room downstairs. Please bring only good quality items. We no longer have a white elephant area. These are meant to be things that are, as the name suggests, in nearly new or gently used condition.
- ❖ If you have any questions, please contact Carole or any of our M.M./LWML ladies.



**SILENT AUCTION:** I am collecting items for the upcoming Silent Auction portion of the Bazaar. **Suggestions:**

- ✓ Bottles of Wine,
- ✓ Gift Cards for Restaurants, LCBO, Beer Store, movies etc.
- ✓ Hockey Tickets (ICE DOGS – *if you have season tickets and know there is a game you cannot use, please donate it.*)

Thank You, Judy Mason

## TREE TRIMMING & DECORATING THE CHURCH



(Decorate the Christmas Trees and Church)

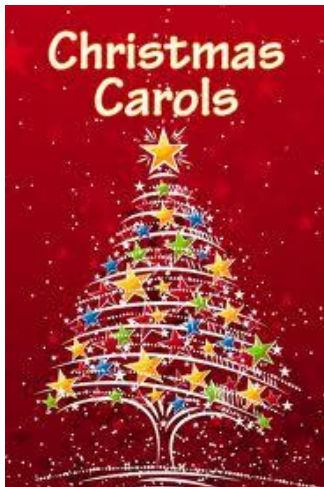
Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m.

Dinner of Lasagna, Salads & Desserts to follow!!

*Please sign up for attendance in the narthex  
& for help with the side dishes  
or email: [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)*

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SNYDER - CHRISTMAS CRAFT & BAKE SALE:** Saturday, December 2, 3837 Netherby Road, Stevensville.

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS 2023:** December 3, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. 470 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines.. Free-will offering. Parking available at the building for those with limited mobility. Others please park in nearby Brock Lots E or O. *Featuring Scripture readings and hymns, choral music, organ, brass and violin.*



## Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 6:30 PM  
Fellowship to follow

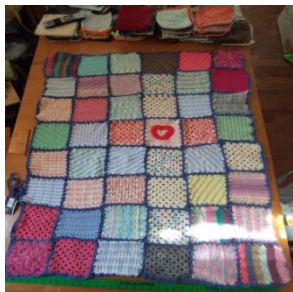
Please bring along a favourite dessert or treat to share.  
Beverages will be provided.

*Everyone Welcome*

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>		<u>Oct. 29th, 2023</u>	<u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 106</u>	<u>SOUL:</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	2,398.45	232,420.07	(8,143.81)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	135.00	13,655.00	(75.77)
Property Improvement:			154.00	5,481.00	

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Andy & Bette Vasko and family in loving memory of Elmer Vasko.

**Leftover Halloween Candy?** If you over-estimated how many trick or treaters you would have and are trying to avoid snacking on it yourself, SOUL can help! Any leftover treats would make excellent BINGO prizes. Drop off next Sunday (November 5th) to Pastor Todd or Jenn.



**Granny Squares still needed:** This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. Once there are enough, we will make a Caring Squares blanket for whoever may be in need of a hug. On behalf of the Caring Squares, if you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

**NEEDED: Men's shoes and boots.** The Niagara Mobile Closet is in need of men's shoes and boots for the homeless. Please drop off in the box at the back of the church. Thank You!



## “WARM FEET FOR THE STREET”



THE LWML / MARY MARTHA  
are filling warm socks for the “Out of the Cold” program at their  
November meeting.

### Contributions of any of the following would be most appreciated:

- Large, warm socks
- Toothpaste
- Lip balm
- Hand and Foot warmers
- Conditioner (travel size)
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Bars of soap (travel size)
- Hand Lotion (travel size)
- Plastic Band-aids
- Small packages of Kleenex
- Hats
- Scarves
- Warm Gloves

There's a box at the back for your donations.

For more information, please contact Wendy Hyatt or Paytra Schurmann-Smith



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX GIFT

Operation Christmas Child has become a Holiday tradition for many of us here at Christ Church. The love and care put into every shoebox gift has changed the lives of children worldwide, and I think we can say it has changed us as well. Together, let's continue to make these children an important part of our Christmas celebration by extending Christ's love and compassion.

([www.samaritanspurse.ca](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca))

## HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

1. Pick up a designated shoebox from the narthex.
2. Decide on the category and age. Girl/Boy 2-4; 5-9; 10-14
3. Fill the box, mark it and put an elastic around it.
4. Enclose a \$10.00 cheque (made out to Christ Lutheran) to cover postage to send your box and put it in the offering basket – designated "Samaritan's Purse" – CLC will tax receipt your donation and mail donations to Samaritan's Purse as a lump sum.
5. Drop your box off at the Church by Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## SUGGESTED GIFTS

- |                  |                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Toys:            | slinky, yo-yo, kazoos, animals, stickers, dolls, balls, cars                                                                                    |
| School Supplies: | pens, paper, stamps, markers, calculators, pencil crayons & sharpener, colouring books                                                          |
| Hygiene Items:   | soap, toothbrush, comb, washcloth, <b>NO</b> toothpaste or shampoo                                                                              |
| Other:           | hard candy only, sunglasses, ball caps, socks, flip flops, watches, hairclips, T-shirts, underwear, small picture books, flashlights, batteries |

Please **DO NOT** include: used items, war related items, medicines, cosmetics, breakable items, perishable foods or liquids (shampoo, etc.), gum



## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We give Praise and Thanks to God for answering our continued prayers!  
This week we received an email addressed from Immigration, Refugees, and  
Citizenship Canada:

### **STATUS UPDATE: NOTICE OF VISA APPROVAL**

Dear Christ Lutheran Church:

This letter is in regards to the following primary applicant, and his/her accompanying family members, who you have sponsored: Kareem Abadi AL HUMAIDI



A permanent resident visa has now been issued for the above mentioned primary applicant and his accompanying family members. A request has been sent to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to proceed with the final resettlement arrangements. This includes contacting and enrolling the applicants in the Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) program as applicable, assisting with any exit procedures, and booking travel.

Kareem was contacted by phone on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, by the International Organization for Migration and the process for them to come to Canada is in the works. They indicated that the family could be here by Christmas. We continue to pray that the final paper work goes smoothly and quickly. Kareem and Hamida are very excited with the latest news. It will be an exciting time for them and the boys. It will be their first airplane ride. What an adventure!

Ivy Parkhouse continues to gather and record the donations to furnish their home here in Canada. Please contact Ivy if you have things to donate. We have a nice bedroom suite with a double bed so we will need sheets and pillow cases. Also need sheets and pillow cases for the boy's beds. Gloria has made beautiful quilts for Kareem & Hamida, and each of Ameer and Asser's beds, but we will also need some blankets as well for their beds.

Sue Honey will be making a list of food items for to have for when they arrive. Please contact Sue if you are willing to purchase food items for the family.

Unfortunately we also need to be aware, as mentioned back in September, that we will require further donations of money to support the family for their first year here in Canada. Because of the cost of housing and other things the cost of our support has greatly increased. Your Refugee Committee asks you to prayerfully consider whatever donation you may be able to make. Remember, there is no gift that is too small. Consider what the LWML have done with their collection of mites over the years to support many different kinds of outreach.

Please continue to pray that all the final details with immigration be completed smoothly and our Lord's protection over the family as they prepare for their move to Canada from Athens.

God's Blessings, from your Refugee Committee,

Ivy Parkhouse, Howard Bogusat, Sue Honey, Tim Reck, Lorraine Kaija, Pastor John



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Saints

J C C H R I S T O P H E R A J C B  
O A C O E P E T E R S X Z J F E L  
A T Y C R O S E T I C Z V O O C D  
C H T A K M E R I L L A T A M I T  
H E G N P A F T P L A T E N S L K  
I R Q I Z R Z H Y R R P L O L I W  
M I J C O T T S R Z E A I F P A B  
U N O H X H K A N N E T Z A L R Y  
D E S O W A J S C U W R A R Y O N  
X I E L V F P L D M I I B C X W K  
R G P A G K A B T F D C E R I T A  
B E H S F G U H S M S K T J Q F W  
G R K G H Z L U X I S T H J T X I  
J O H N T H E B A P T I S T R P X  
B L E S S E D V I R G I N M A R Y  
E E F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I  
A N C C J N V A L E N T I N E C I

rita  
paul  
peter  
valentine  
john the baptist  
joachim  
cecilia

rose  
joan of arc  
catherine  
francis of assisi  
joseph  
anne  
martha

elizabeth  
clare  
christopher  
patrick  
blessed virgin mary  
nicholas

# God Spoke to Moses Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



L I S I N U W O R S H I P I D  
U F T A L I Q U A T U O R F T  
L I R E R E G Y P T M R I L O  
N R L L A M C O N S E B U A S  
N E N S E Q U I S C I U L M N  
D R E V E L E X E R Z S I E R  
L A O R E A N G E L S H T E R  
M O U N T A I N R E T T T V E  
I T N I A T B H E N I E M O D  
T R O N B U R N I N G S V S E  
L A E Q U A T N O N F E C T E  
T U E S O L O R E D E L I Q U  
Z R I T C J K F P H A R O A H  
L A O R E U O L O R S I T C R  
S U I S R A E L I T E S T V K

ANGEL  
BURNING  
BUSH

EGYPT  
FIRE  
FLAME

FLOCK  
ISRAELITES  
MOUNTAIN

PHAROAH  
RESCUE  
WORSHIP

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# GOSPEL TUNES SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Adapted from the Lutheran Church of Australia Worship Materials*

ALL SAINTS' DAY

November 5, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

## ***GOD WELCOMES US***

**BEGINNING HYMN:**

*"For All The Saints"*

*OCP.com*

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
all who by faith before the world confessed,  
Your Name, O Jesus, be forever blest. ! A----lleluia, Al-----leluia.**

**You were their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;  
You, Lord, their Captain, in the well-fought fight;  
And You, in the darkness drear, their One true Light! A----lleluia, Al-----leluia.**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one within your great design. ! A----lleluia, Al-----leluia.**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost! A----lleluia, Al-----leluia.**

*William How, 1823-97, alt. public domain*

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Since we have such a great High Priest Who has passed through the Heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**Let us with confidence draw near to God,**

That we may receive mercy **And find grace in time of need.**

*[Brief silence for prayerful reflection]*

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

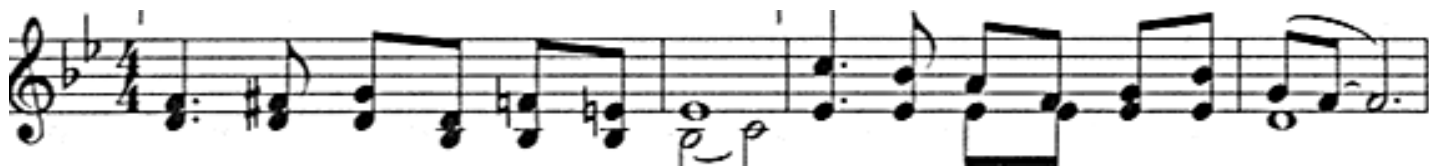
**Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving kindness. In Your great compassion, blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth; against You have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. Purge me from sinful stains and I shall**

be pure; wash me, and I will be truly clean. Hide Your face from my sins and clear away all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with Your bountiful Spirit. Make me hear of joy and gladness and give me the joy of Your saving help again. **Amen.**

*(Based on Psalm 51)*

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**SUNG KYRIE:**      *"To The Lord We Pray"*      *(Tune: "Just a closer walk with Thee")*



1. To the Lord we pray for peace, for the peace sent from a-bove,

2. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us,



For the hope of this our world, for the church, please bless with Your love:

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us, give us peace, O Lord, give us peace.

**THIS IS THE FEAST**      *"Praise To The Lamb"*      *Tune: Love Lifted Me*



Heav'nly hosts in wor-ship sing, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, cry; He the First and



He the Last, God the Lord Most High. Glo-ry, hon-our, pow'r and praise



be to Him al-one! We, with all cre-ation fall, be-fore His throne.



**Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; By His great**



**off-er-ing, we are set free!**



**Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; Now and for-**



**ev - er - more! --- Praise to the Lamb!**

*Words: paraphrase of Revelations 7, ESV © 2006*

## **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

We pray: Almighty and everlasting Father, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical Body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## ***THE WORD***

**The First Reading:** *St. John's Revelation 7:9-17*

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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' 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 worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' 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. 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. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre 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.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle:** *1 John 3:1-3*

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. 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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE: *"To God Be The Glory"* [hymnary.org/text/to\\_god\\_be\\_the\\_glory\\_](http://hymnary.org/text/to_god_be_the_glory_)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "To God Be The Glory". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that we may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther thro'".

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done! So loved he the  
world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -  
tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that we may go in.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord,  
praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther thro'



Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done!

Fanny J. Crosby, 1875; alt.  
Mod.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.  
William H. Doane, 1875

## **The Holy Gospel:**            *St. Matthew 5:1-12*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter:

### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely\* on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. This is the Gospel of the Lord.    **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

GOSPEL HYMN: "Blest The Children Of Our God"

[www.hymnary.org/hymn/GPS1982](http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/GPS1982)



1 Blest the chil - dren of our God, They are bought with  
2 They are jus - ti - fied by grace, They en - joy the  
3 They are lights up - on the earth, Chil - dren of a



Christ's own blood; They are ran - somed from the grave,  
Sav - ior's peace; All their sins are washed a - way,  
heav'n - ly birth; One with God, with Je - sus one;



Life e - ter - nal they will have:  
They will stand in God's great day: With them num - bered  
Glo - ry is in them be - gun:



may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!

*Text: Joseph Humphreys, b. 1720, alt.  
Tune: Voller Wunder, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637-76*

**MESSAGE**

***GOD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS & HEARS OUR PRAYERS***

**THE OFFERING** *is received.*

**OFFERING SONG:** "Create In Me"

**[Tune: Sweet Hour Of Prayer]**



Cre - ate in me, cre - ate in me, a clean heart Lord, cre -





-ate in me; re - new a spir - it right in me, cre -



- ate in me, cre - ate in me. Your pres - ence ne'er de -



-part from me, Your Spir - it ne'er re - move from me, re -



-store to me Your joy so free! Cre - ate in me, cre - ate in me.

*Words: Ps. 51, adapted & arranged by Rev. T. Hoeffs, 2017. Music: William Bradbury, 1861, Sweet Hour, LMD - reprinted: [www.hymnary.org/hymn/CGH2010/page/386](http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/CGH2010/page/386)*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

Lord God, Caring Father over of all creation, draw us into your presence, and transform us to be a holy people. Bless us through your word, your spirit and your community to show your uncommon love to others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Move us to reinvigorate polluted waters and air, renew fallow fields, and revive natural habitats that have been destroyed. Open our eyes to the bounty you have given us, and inspire us to tend to it.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill our public servants and we who elect them to office with your wisdom. Let your justice flow through our governments and institutions.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unbind those who are burdened by illness or grief, especially [names spoken here:] and those we name before you now silently.... Wipe away the tears of those who cannot see your life through the weight of their affliction.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and bless this congregation's ministries of outreach, healing, and hospitality. Make us eager to receive those you send to us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Father, we lift up to you those persons we cherish, who have died since last All Saints Sunday. We remember them in love, give thanks for their lives, and celebrate the victory of faith through Christ our Lord. [Names here --] For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

There are saints whose names we do not know: unnamed caregivers, forgotten sacrificial parents, thankless workers, volunteers of mercy, faithful church workers. Those who bring laughter and a human touch, healing and wholeness, acceptance and understanding, into a world in need. Thank you for your saints, O Father, and move us to serve as Your Son Jesus Christ came to serve, Who with the Holy Spirit you live and reign as one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER: *"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name..."*

#### GREETING & BLESSING

Let us praise the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

#### SENDING HYMN: *"Leaning On The Everlasting Arms"*

[www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)



1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim-way, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-



last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing on Je - sus,  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms; lean -



ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929)  
MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter (1858-1924)

SHOWALTER  
10.9.10.9.Ref.

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[www.hymnary.org/hymn/ELW2006/page/919](http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/ELW2006/page/919)

**Rev. Todd Hoeffs**  
**ALL SAINTS DAY**  
**“How To Get To Heaven From Here”**  
**November 5, 2023 10 AM**

My instructor for jewelry making in my university art training told us the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class:

“Everyone starts with an A. It's up to you to keep it.” He graded not only technique or skill, how smooth you could set a stone, but also creativity, vision, risk taking, joy, and attitude.

[I actually got an A-plus!] Heaven works like that. Every person of the world is created by God to live with Him forever. We all start with an A. It's the Holy Spirit, living a life of faith in Jesus which keeps us as A – grade disciples. Most people desire Heaven in one way or another.

Few people yearn to spend life after death with the devil or demons. It's hard to picture Heaven. There's an assumption that Heaven is good and happy. That it's fancy, or exciting, or there's pearly gates and Peter at the entry with a checklist. Scriptures never shows the idea of “going to heaven” as the primary goal of the Christian. Scripture clearly teaches that the souls of those who die in the faith are with the Lord. The sleep of death. Reclining in the bosom of Abraham. Paradise with Jesus. Passing over from death to life. The Creed wonderfully expresses Scripture: When we “look for the “resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come.” Our real hope is tangible, physical, body and soul -- on the Last Day.

On that day, the New Heavens and the new earth join and all of us will be present there.

All creation is made new through Him. We are a connected creation. Jesus and the Father are One, and we are one with them with the Holy Spirit. The entire known world [cosmos, universe] and all that is beyond our sight is saved by Christ. For Adam and Eve to name animals and have the privilege to care for them, They had to know them. Have a connection to them, a love for them, an understanding them. That goes without saying for getting to know people and have a relationship.

This connectedness with people flowing from Jesus' love for us is at the heart of sainthood.

What you do to another, you do to yourself; how you love yourself is how you love your neighbour; how you love God is how you love yourself; how you love yourself is how you love God. How you do anything is how you do everything.
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By faith, we no longer see things at their surface level.

We see things as belonging to God --precious enough for His Son to die for and save.

Isaiah says “The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox. A child will place his little hand over the snake pit.” This is the harmonious peace that only Jesus can bring. He connects us to Himself and to each other. The less we see a human connection to another person, the less transformed and reshaped in Christ we are. Then we're really

fighting against it. We don't want a connection; we want to be better. We want God to think more of us. But it's not about us and what we want or desire.

If we can't connect with people of other religions, ideas, or classes, or races,

Or with our "enemies" or with those who are suffering, we're not filled with Jesus.

We are filled with our own selves and nothing more. No believer in Jesus can only be concerned about being saved Or only make sure their family and friends are with God's in-crowd. That's a selfish faith. Salvation is always tied to purpose. You are saved with a purpose; Saved for a reason; Bought with the price of Blood. Following Christ doesn't come cheap but it is easy and light.

We don't go to heaven; we live in the reality of heaven now.

If self-salvation is your only concern, it's easy to become isolated;

Soon you think NO ONE is saved but you.

Many a church denomination heritage is built on this lie.

We Lutherans fall into that trap often

Heaven is not about belonging to the right group or following the correct rituals.

It's about having a humble, kind, love-centred Jesus view toward all of life. Having robes washed in the blood of Jesus is about everyday living. Each of you received this the day of your baptism and in God's gift of faith. Rather than giving us a coded blueprint of the future,

John's Revelation gives a visionary insight into the present situation. The story of God's work in history has never been about escaping Earth and going up to heaven.

It has always been about God descending to dwell among us. . . . God isn't a distant, terrifying ogre waiting for vengeance at the end of the universe. God is descending among us here and now, making Revelations' tree of true celebration available for all. We are all saved by mercy: "[Jesus] descended into hell" to shout out at the devil, "I win, you lose. Your fate is sealed." Hell no longer a big bad threat . . . because love has dwelled in it with Jesus' living body and word. I am positive no one has ever had fulfilling life of faith Because they believe to escape hell. God doesn't scare you into His Kingdom. It's a kingdom out of this world.

The time of tribulation that Jesus depicts with the countless rows of the blessed dead parading around waving victory palms is still going on. Tribulation time began with Jesus' ascension and will end when the world ends. Tribulation in Greek culture means "pressure".

The you get a bruise because too much pressure has been put on your blood vessels.

Pressure exists in all walks of life, even in the church. The worse persecution will come from within Christian camps. They will apply pressure because they're afraid of what is to come

Because they may have passed on enjoying Heaven know. Perhaps they've even made a hell on earth. Hell is real. The Devil and his demons are there And any human person who wants to be there. True arrogant honest anti-faith, anti-Jesus people will not be forced into Heaven.

God will not threaten people into love. We either dwell in a loving relationship with God

or one of separation from the source of all life and joy. This moves us to remain thankful, grateful, peaceful and humble. Because it's not our call who God welcomes into His Kingdom.

His love is big enough to encompass the world. God longs to be with you. Much more than our desire for God is His desire for us. That's really the whole point of being at church, isn't it?—to be with God and He with you, concretely, tangibly, in the Body and Blood of Jesus.

On fact, Jesus shares in your humanity so that you may share in His glory. It helps us treasure that everything in life is a gift. There is a picture circulating on social media.

It's 2 apes in the jungle. The one ape says to the other, "you're going to hell".

The other ape responds, "what's in hell?" "Those like you" he replied. "Who's in heaven" the ape asked back. "Those like me" the arrogant ape quickly said. "uh, you got to work on your motivational threats"!!! The ape happily conceded.

You can't force people in. You can't threaten them. You can't make it have and have-nots.

You can only love people in. Because that's how you and me have gotten in.

Loved into in with Jesus' cross and empty grave.

That's how we get from here to there.

Amen.

