

November 3, 2024

All Saints Day



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Divine Service:
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
Sundays

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:
9:30 am

+

Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

Organist:
Patty Barnes

ALL SAINTS DAY

November 3, 2024

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper...*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. The purple cup is grape juice. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"All Saints, All Souls"

Arr. L. Mayernik

"For All the Saints"

Arr. D. Wagner

WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 34:1, 3, 8–9; 37:28; 97:11–12

P Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

G **For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.**

P I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

P Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

C Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved of God, we rejoice to be numbered with the saints. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution.

C **Almighty God, we repent of our sins—the inherited sinfulness that is our original condition and our manifold sins in thought and in word and in deed. In Your mercy, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we may serve You as Your redeemed people, now and forever.**

P Because of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sins of all people, God has promised His forgiveness. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you ever live as the saints with a bright and glorious future that you are in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

HYMN

“For All the Saints”

LSB 677



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
3 Oh, may Thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,
4 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!



Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; And
Fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old And
We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!
 all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
 Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
 And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
 The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
 The King of Glory passes on His way.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens
 in the west;
 Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
 Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

△ 8 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:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt., Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, Text and tune: Public domain

SAINTS CELEBRATION

Part 1 Psalm 27:13; 37:28

P The words of the Lutheran Confessions give three specific reasons for remembering and honoring the saints. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession states: “Our Confession approves honoring the saints in three ways. The first is thanksgiving. We should thank God because He has shown examples of mercy, because He wishes to save people, and because He has given teachers and other gifts to the Church” (Ap XXI 4). Some of the saints listed in the commemorations section of the hymnal lived long earthly lives. Others, especially some of the martyrs who died on account of their faith in the first centuries of the Christian Church, did not. Today

we bring to our remembrance someone old and someone young from the legions of saints from past centuries.

- A** St. Polycarp, who was born less than four decades after Jesus ascended into heaven, had a long and impactful ministry. As a young man, he knew and studied under St. John, the disciple of Jesus. For over fifty years, he cared for the church at Smyrna, which is now in the land of Turkey. During the time of his leadership, there was continuing persecution of Christians by the governing authorities. During the time when Marcus Aurelius was Roman Emperor, Polycarp was arrested and taken to the local stadium, where he was ordered to renounce his faith in Christ. In response to that order, Polycarp replied: "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong, and can I revile my king that saved me?" St. Polycarp, whose name translates as "much fruit" labored fruitfully for his Lord. He is remembered as a martyr on the church calendar each year on February 23.
- P** St. Katherine of Alexandria lived in Egypt in the last years of the third century and the first years of the fourth. Raised in a wealthy and educated family, she came to know of Jesus through her course of studies as a teenager. Although by this time in history Roman state persecution of Christians was subsiding, there were still times when admitting to being a follower of Jesus Christ could bring a sentence of death. Courageously confessing her firmly held belief, Katherine went before the Roman Emperor Maxentius and requested that the persecutions and executions of Christian people for their faith stop. Refusing to give up her faith, Katherine calmly faced a prison sentence that was ultimately followed by her execution. During her time of captivity she continued her Christian witness, leading to the conversion of soldiers sent to guard her and scholars sent to dissuade her from her beliefs and even the empress, who had come to visit her. In the book of Revelation, St. John gave these words of encouragement from the Lord: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (2:10). From her few years of earthly life, Katherine left a lasting spiritual legacy.
- A** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
- C For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



Refrain
 In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT, **I** Font Side, **II** Pulpit Side

Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b

G **These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

I *In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in Your righteousness deliver me.
For You are my rock and my fortress;
and for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me.*

II *Into Your hand I commit my spirit;
You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.*

G **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S CHOIR, *11:00 service*

"Behold What Manner of Love"

Led by Merna Ahlemeyer

P. Vantine

FIRST READING

Revelation 7:2-17

The Word is read...

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

PSALM, **I** Font Side, **II** Pulpit Side

Psalm 149

C **Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly!**

- I** *Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!*
- II** *Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!*

- I** *For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.*
- II** *Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.*

- I** *Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,*
- II** *to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples,*

- I** *to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written!*
- II** *This is honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!*

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:1-3

The Word is read...

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

Stand

VERSE

Hebrews 10:23–24; 12:1a, 2a

- P** Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.
- C** **Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Alleluia.**
- P** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
- C** **And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1–12

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read...

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ

Sit

HYMN

“Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship”

LSB 949



1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship “Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly” cry;
2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



“He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High.”
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon - or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a - lone!
Wealth and wis - dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon - or, might, do - min - ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash - ioned, Fall be - fore the Fa - ther's throne.
Now be His from all His crea - tures And to ev - er - last - ing days!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024, Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940–2021, Text: © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission:
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SERMON

SAINTS CELEBRATION

Part 2 Psalm 28:8; 97:11–12

- P** Two other reasons for commemorating the saints noted in the Lutheran Confessions are the strengthening of our faith and the imitation, first of faith, then of other virtues. The calendar of the saints includes both men and women from every era of history and from many lands. In a hymn from the very end of the nineteenth century, writer Lesbia Scott penned these words: “I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green: they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.” So now we meet two saints:
- A** Often showing up first on an alphabetical list of the saints, Ambrose lived in northern Italy in the fourth century. As a child, he proudly announced on one occasion, “I shall one day be bishop.” His studies and experiences, however, took his life in a different direction and eventually he became a governor in northern Italy, ruling from the city of Milan. When the local bishop of that region died, conflict broke out in Milan between two possible successors. When crowds of supporters of both sides gathered in conflict in the city center, Ambrose, as governor, went to keep order. The result of his peace-keeping efforts was that he was acclaimed as bishop by the crowd. He was the right man at the right time. He served the people and congregations at Milan tirelessly for almost a quarter of a century and used all his talents in the service of the Lord. Each Advent we sing one

of his many hymns: “Savior of the Nations, Come.” The day on the church calendar associated with St. Ambrose is December 7—the day in the year 374 that he was named bishop of Milan.

P Some of the lesser-known saints turn out to be the most influential. One of those remarkable people is St. Hilda. Born in Great Britain shortly after the year 600, she lived her life in an era that is not often remembered. During the seventh-century, battles, feuds, and wars made life in England and Scotland unsettled and challenging. As the leader of a religious house for both women and men at Whitby, England, Hilda made it her vocation to bring Christian educational opportunity to her remote part of the world. She sought to develop the talents of people around her however she could. One of the people she influenced greatly was Caedmon, who was a herdsman and keeper of the abbey grounds at Whitby. With her encouragement, he became a noted minstrel and is viewed by many as the father of English language poetry. St. Hilda brought disparate groups in the British church together and continually sought to accentuate and develop the gifts of God she discovered in His people.

A The LORD is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed.

G **Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!**

P A newer hymn, written by Herman Stuempfle toward the end of the twentieth century, is “For All the Faithful Women.” It has specific stanzas relating to the lives of noted women of faith, from the times of Miriam, Hannah, and Ruth in the Old Testament era through succeeding generations.

Stand

HYMN

“For All the Faithful Women”

LSB 855 st. 1, 3-4



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en Who served in days of old,
 3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, Those named and those un - known
 △ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.
In whom through all the a - ges Your light of glo - ry shone,
All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, Who binds the Church in one!



They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.
We of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing And fer - vent prayer we raise
With saints who went be - fore us, With saints who wit - ness still,



To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.
That, faith - ful in Your ser - vice, Our lives may sing Your praise.
We sing glad Al - le - lu - ias And strive to do Your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007, alt., Tune: Finnish, 19th cent., Text: © 1993, 1997, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Tune: Public domain

NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS

- P** We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise and thanksgiving forever. God gave new life to them through Holy Baptism, nourished them in the company of His people at His Holy Table and in His mercy summoned them to His eternal presence so that they may continue to serve Him forever.

Those who have died within the past year may be remembered by name.

Chuck Webb, Steve Robertson, Jack Sievert, Vivian Shepard.

- P** In joyful anticipation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, O Lord, those relatives, friends, and fellow members of this congregation who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promises that where You are, there Your servants shall be also. Bless the memories of the saints among us and keep us firm in the certain hope of the great reunion to come in Your gracious eternal kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray,

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gratefully we pray for the church at large and for the fellowship we enjoy as God's holy people, remembering the saints in other places around the world who share in our faith and hope and love and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Thankfully we pray for those who serve in leadership positions in our national Synod, our district, and our local congregation, asking that God may bless their work among us and for us in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Confidently we make our petitions for the sick, the sorrowing, and all who this day are in need of our prayers, [*especially . . .*]. Grant that their petitions, Good Shepherd, be answered according to Your gracious will and that they be supported by this fellowship of saints. Help us to cherish the company of all of God's people and seek to bring care in Christ to all with cheerful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Humbly we ask Your blessing on our nation, its leaders, and all who work for the security of our communities. Grant that we always cherish the freedoms we enjoy and be strengthened by Your power to maintain the public good and promote peace and harmony. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord may be exchanged.

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Deep River"

arr. D. Kidwell

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 955



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our

cup of bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were
 sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
 hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
 give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80, Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010, Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

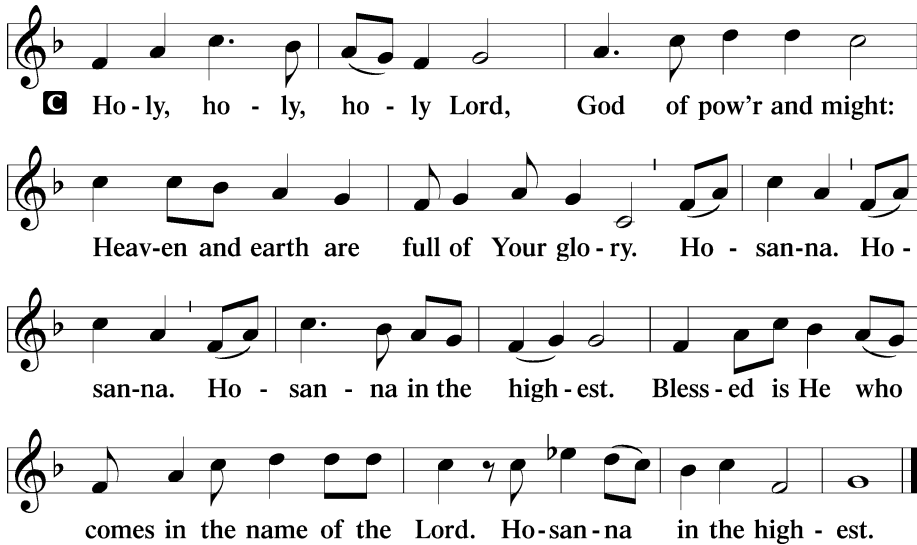
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened

by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of all creation, for all You have done for Your people in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank You for all of creation and for every good gift with which You bless us. Accept our praise, Lord, and grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. As we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, grant that we be sanctified in body and soul and spirit and finally be granted our place with all Your saints in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

- C 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.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

G 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.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Behold a Host, Arrayed in White”

LSB 676

1 Be - hold a host, ar - rayed in white, Like thou - sand
 2 De - spised and scorned, they so - journed here; But now, how
 3 O bless - ed saints in bright ar - ray Now safe - ly



snow - clad moun - tains bright! With palms they stand; Who
 glo - rious they ap - pear! Those mar - tyrs stand, A
 home in end - less day, Ex - tol the Lord, Who



is this band Be - fore the throne of light? These are the
 priest - ly band, God's throne for - ev - er near. On earth they
 with His Word Sus - tained you on the way. The steep and



saints of glo - rious fame, Who from the great af -
 wept through bit - ter years; Now God has wiped a -
 nar - row path you trod; You toiled and sowed the



flic - tion came And in the flood Of Je - sus' blood
 way their tears, Trans - formed their strife To heav'n - ly life,
 Word a - broad; Re - joice and bring Your fruits and sing



Are cleansed from guilt and shame. They now serve God both
 And freed them from their fears. They now en - joy the
 Be - fore the throne of God. The myr - iad an - gels



day and night; They sing their songs in end - less light. Their
 Sab - bath rest, The heav'n - ly ban - quet of the blest; The
 raise their song; O saints, sing with that hap - py throng! Lift



an - thems ring As they all sing With an - gels shin - ing bright.
 Lamb, their Lord, At fes - tive board Him - self is host and guest.
 up one voice; Let heav'n re - joice In our Re - deem - er's song!

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt., Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent., Text and tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY

"Behold a Host Arrayed in White"
 "Four Variants on Bread of the World "

setting: D. Schack
 arr. D. Wagner

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 165

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
 veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

SAINTS CELEBRATION

Part 3 Revelation 5:9; Psalm 28:9; 37:28; 116:5, 15

- ☐ In the book of Revelation, the description of the company of heaven is one that includes "every tribe and language and people and nation." That amazing and diverse group of individuals will include many saints we know today by name and reputation as their stories are passed from generation to generation. There will be others who were forgotten on earth but will certainly be fully known in the bright and glorious company of the blessed that is heaven.

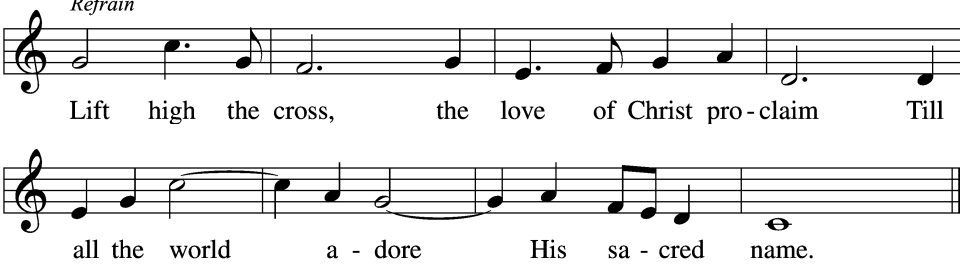
- A** Some of the saints that have become well known through the ages left letters or books or diaries to chronicle their earthly lives. Perhaps the most outstanding of those writers is St. Augustine, who lived in northern Africa and southern Europe in the fourth and fifth centuries. Between the years 397 and 400, Augustine wrote a thirteen-volume composition telling of his life up until that time. Titled "Confessions," it came to be regarded as the first autobiography in Western literature. It served as a model for Christian writers for hundreds of years. In his "Confessions," Augustine tells of his childhood, youth, and early adulthood. Looking back as he wrote his personal history, he saw many ways in which his life in past times had been misspent, misdirected, and sinful. What he had come to realize was that his life did not find its true fulfillment until he had become totally and completely a follower of Christ and a servant to his Lord and Savior. One quote from Augustine that is best known is his prayerful exclamation to God: "For Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee." St. Augustine is remembered on the church's list of Commemorations on August 28.
- P** Although on All Saints' Day we remember many of God's people by name, there are also many people worthy of our remembrance and thanksgiving who are not able to be recalled individually. Hymn texts in our hymnal that have attributions like "Sarum Breviary" and "African American spiritual" and "Church Poetry, Philadelphia, 1823" were penned by unknown saints. Music without a composer named, listed simply as "Geistliche Lieder" or "Davids Psalmen" or "Himmlische Harmony, Mainz, 1628" were the results of dedicated labor by unheralded saints. Much of the mission work of the church has been done by people whose names now are not remembered. For these unknown saints, the words "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" speaks to us today, reminding us of the heavenly reunion of all of the saints in the courts of the Lord in eternity when what is forgotten on earth will be remembered once again.
- A** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.
- C** **For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.**
Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

LSB 837 sts. ref-6


Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com-bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from
death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!
Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt., Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947, Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Lift High the Cross "

setting: P. Weber

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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