

All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2020

Southwest California Synod

Welcome

Gathering Song: ELW 423 – “Shall We Gather At the River”

First Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: ELW 424 “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” vs 1

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

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

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is

great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Gospel Response: ELW 424 "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" vs 4

Sermon – Deacon Lynn Bulock

Sermon Hymn – ELW 728 - "Blest Are They"

Prayers of God's People – Pastor Craig Beeker

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod (*especially*). Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year.

We especially lift up those who have died from the Coronavirus. We know there are over a million lives lost throughout the globe, over 225,000 people in the United States. While we do not know all their names, you do, O God.

We lift up all those who have died on our streets, in gun violence, in poverty, in homelessness. Many of these beloved children of God have been forgotten by their families or by society, but you know them by name. We offer their memories to you.

We lift up those who have died in war and conflict. You know the names of all those who were killed in strife, by bombing and chemical warfare, by police action and military efforts. May they find eternal peace in you.

We lift up those who have died alone in hospitals and nursing facilities, unable to be visited by loved ones during our lockdown. May they know eternal comfort, but also send comfort to those who grieve so deeply at being isolated from their loved ones. Bless all of us who were not able to have funerals and memorials this year. Bring us peace in the way only your Spirit can.

We lift up those saints who loved us, placed scriptures in our hands and taught us to pray. We lift up family members and church members and teachers, pastors and deacons. Thank you for the influence they had on our faith.

We lift up those we name before you now, the saints of our lives, gifts from you, returned now to their eternal home with you.

Congregation is encouraged to name their personal saints and loved ones

Comfort the grieving, heal the broken, bring hope to those in despair. We praise you for these saints, whose names you know and whose hearts you hold. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Sending Song: Speak O Lord

By [Keith Getty](#)

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness

That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Sending

Listen again to this lesson from the Book of Hebrews and think about the gathering of all saints that will witness someday.

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

May the blessing of God: Sovereign, Savior and Spirit grant you joy and peace in being named among God's beloved, strengthened for service, centered in love, living on purpose, for God in the world. Amen.

Blessing

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please note: Southwest California Synod will be providing digital worship services through November 22, 2020. We encourage you to browse the myriad digital offerings provided by our congregations after that date.