

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
A PANDEMIC LITURGY FOR ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
NOVEMBER 1, 2020
ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE – PRAISE GOD THE LORD, YE SONS OF MEN – J.G. Walther

A MEDITATION FOR PREPARATION

As early as the fourth century, days were set aside to commemorate all the saints at once. Today we continue this tradition using the varied practices of All Saints Day, All Souls Day and the Day of the Dead all of which are celebrated on November 1 or 2. Though in the Catholic tradition where this celebration honored unknown saints and to remedy deficiencies in people's observance of a particular saint's day, we do not canonize or pray to saints, but we look to these towering figures of our heritage for inspiration and encouragement in our own Christian pilgrimage. All Saints Day should challenge us by presenting us with a variety of figures from different times and places whose often contradictory styles of faithfulness enlarge our notion of what it means to be a disciple and a saint.

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP: REMEMBER WHEN - The Many

OPENING HYMN: FOR ALL THE SAINTS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Let us begin our lament here, O God, in an act of memory of all that has happened, in all that we could not believe was possible, as good Christian people, as people who had never known how far and wide a virus could actually reach, as people who thought we had enough faith.

Unison: Show us what we do, not what to remember, and what we cannot bear to remember after so much has been lost in only a few short months. O God, let us begin here in all full lament.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: Jesus said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

Unison: But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. God, forgive us and bless us.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry."

Unison: God, forgive us and bless us.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Unison: Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep." God, forgive us and bless us.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for sure your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Unison: Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets." God, forgive us and bless us.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Brenda Hovis

New Testament: I Thessalonians 2:9 – 10, 4:13 – 18

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *Not to the East but to the West*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: This day we celebrate God's saints, those people who have tried to live in God's ways, gently and firmly turning the world around – and even upside down – to make it a better place for all of God's children. Thank you for your saints, O God:

People: help us to be like them.

Pastor: There are saints who have famous names:

St. Mary Magdalene

St. Peter

St. Mary the Mother of Jesus

St. James

St. Johanna

St. Mark

and many others.

Thank you for your saints, O God:

People: help us to be like them.

Pastor: There are saints whose names we do not know: unnamed caregivers, forgotten single parents, landless plantation workers, amnesty letter writers, God's volunteers, church workers. Thank you for your saints, O God:

People: help us to be like them.

Pastor: There are those throughout history who gave their all for what they believed:

Julian of Norwich
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Martin Luther King
Teresa of Calcutta
Florence Nightingale
Sister Mary MacKillop.
Thank you for your saints, O God:

People: **help us to be like them.**

Pastor: And there are those who are living among us, who work for justice and peace, for freedom and human rights, who bring laughter and a human touch, healing and wholeness, acceptance and understanding, into a world in need. Thank you for your saints, O God:

People: **help us to be like them.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Eternal God, for all the saints, who are now at rest from the labors of life, who resisted evil, toiled for justice, and proclaimed your gospel, at all times and in all places, we sing:

Unison: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Pastor: For all the saints, who continue to trust in you, our rock, although they are living in uncertainty and fear, and although they are fighting against the hardships of life. Even in the midst of sorrow, they continue to sing:

Unison: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Pastor: For all the saints, who faithfully do the work of the church, and constantly seek peace and unity with God, neighbor, and self, we give thanks, and we sing:

Unison: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Pastor: For all the saints, who have prayed together for thousands of years, we offer up the saints of today who are in special need of your blessing.

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: **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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *I CAN ONLY IMAGINE* – MercyMe

Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: We offer our whole selves to you, O God, creator of everything. It is a joy and a blessing to share our gifts with one another. As we offer these things for the work of your church, help us to be mindful of all that we can do together as the Body of Christ. Amen.

LIGHTING THE MEMORY OF THE SAINTS

Pastor: We will not be uninformed about those who have died. We grieve so many. We feel such loss even as we cling to hope. We encourage each other by remembering their names.

Robert Campbell, Jr.

Miriam Beck

Jon Marie Miller

Evelyn Trumbauer

Stanley Turel, Jr.

Roy Slekovac

O Light of Christ, we have witnessed lives well lived and lives cut too short. We are left below this great cloud of witnesses to continue the struggle for justice and love in this world. Still, we lament that we've lost these partners. May their memories be a blessing and a light to our labor. Amen.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIALS

Pastor: It is good and appropriate that we should set apart and dedicate common items purchased for sacred purposes in the work and ministry of Christ's church.

Unison: We come to this moment in our worship when we pause to meditate upon the thoughtfulness of others, whose love for their loved ones who have passed from this life to the next, will be kept fresh by a living memorial to them.

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to dedicate a Pan Zoom Tilt Streaming Camera in memory of Henry Roberts.

The original intent of this memorial gift was to make it possible for the homebound of our congregation to participate in and receive worship experiences. During this time of pandemic, we have all felt isolation from Christian Community. We can now fully appreciate the isolation felt by the homebound and the importance to reach out and make connections with our brothers and sisters in Christ regardless of the circumstances. Technology has not only maintained the connection of our community, it has broadened our ministry to people from faraway

places who have joined us in virtual worship, supporting our ministry and mission through prayerful dedication.

Unison: We thank you for the precious years we journeyed with Henry. He was a gift to us. We will remember his faithfulness to his God, his family, and his church and this camera will remind us of his dedication to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that this message will be heard beyond the four walls of our sanctuary.

A Moment for Private Reflection

Unison: Spirit of God, the life we lead and the stories we weave do not always have a tidy beginning, middle, and end. Some poems do not rhyme, some stories have twists and surprises. Yet, we give thanks to you for the many stories we were able to share with one another, for the joys we knew and dreams we shared with our friends before us. Help us to remember and honor their lives. May the examples of their lives teach us about the meaning and truth to life's ultimate questions. Trusting in your promise to be with us in life, in death, and in life beyond death, we offer all our prayers in the holy name of Jesus. Amen.

SHARING THE FEAST OF GOD WITH ALL THE SAINTS

Invitation to the Feast

Pastor: More than even the flickering lights, we feel the waves of grief rise as we gather around this table to do what we have always done: remember, share and bless.

To remember the goodness of God as we shake the crumbs off familiar paraments faithfully mended over the generations.

We remember who was once here with us. We feel their absence.

To share in the mystery of sacred story that reaches across lifetimes and generations to be broken and poured out with new meaning again.

To bless the grief that tastes as salty as the bread and bitter as the wine puckering our lips.

We gather here with all the saints to remember to share and to bless.

Prayer of Blessing

Pastor: Ancient Spirit, rise from sacred story to everyday truth so that we can find you again in these ordinary elements on our shared table. Even when we are not in one place, may we find in this bread your wholeness. May we find in this cup your joy. Fill our humble bellies with your wonder as you bless this bread and cup. Bless our hearts with fullness. Amen.

Partaking of the Elements

SPECIAL MUSIC: *BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL* - *The Porter's Gate*

Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Holy Three in One, thank you for this feast.
We have remembered who's we are and who we love.
We have blessed our grief and tasted goodness
so let us go now to be light and salt for this world. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *WE LABOR UNTO GLORY* - *The Porter's Gate*

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *I SING A SONG OF THE SAINTS OF GOD*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN* – *J.K.F. Fischer*

*Special thanks to **Darin Jellison**, **The Many**, and **The Porter's Gate** for their offerings and gifts of music and song, and to **Noah Jellison** for editing the service.
Blessings to all!*