

All Saints, November 1, 2020, Order of Worship

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

Call to Worship Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (a psalm of David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he left)
I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed are those who take refuge in him. Fear (worship with awe) the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. The Lord redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God (and of one another):

C: Holy One, we confess that we are not awake to your presence. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them so that, as we accept the wonder of your gifts of abundance, we may give thanks for your rich bounty and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2019 Augsburg Fortress)

All Saints Litany (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2019 Augsburg Fortress)

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

For All Your Saints, O Lord (public domain)
(the tune is the same as *Rise Up, O Saints of God*)

LBW 176, ELW 427

***For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
Who followed you, obeyed, adored, our grateful hymn receive.***

***For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
Who counted you their great reward, accept our thankful cry.***

***To God, the Father, Son, and Spirit, ever blest,
The One in Three, the Three in One, be endless praise addressed.***

The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day: 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.**

A reading from Revelation, the 7th chapter (7:9-17) Note: The book of Revelation is written to 7 churches in Asia Minor during a time when all people, including the Jews, were required to worship the emperor as a god or face punishment as severe as death. This reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The entire book is a revelation given to a man named John while he was exiled to the island of Patmos. John writes:

I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Word of God, word of life.

Hymn ***Blessing and Honor*** (public domain) LBW 525, ELW 854

***Blessing and honor and glory and power, wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
Offer to him who our battle has won, whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne;
Whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne!***

***Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb! Take we the robe and the harp and the psalm;
Sing we the song of the Lamb who was slain, dying in weakness and rising to reign;
Dying in weakness and rising to reign!***

Alleluia ***Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!***

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter (5:1-12), Sermon (page 5)

Hymn of the Day ***Sing with All the Saints in Glory*** (public domain) ELW 426
(sing to *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*)

***Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God’s likeness we’ll awaken, knowing everlasting peace.***

***Life eternal! Heav’n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth’s closing thunders, saints shall stand before the throne!***

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 (from *Sundays and Seasons*, ELCA worship guide)

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.

Gracious God, you invite those who feel most unworthy of love to a seat at the head of your table. Through the humility, vulnerability, and repentance of your church, bring a compassionate welcome to all in need of your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustaining God, guide all people of the earth through harsh extremes in the cycles of creation—drought and flood, blistering heat and freezing cold. Hold in your mercy all places where lives have been disrupted by natural disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sovereign God, gather our country around your justice, peace, and mercy during this election weeks. Bring respect and wisdom to people of every party, place, age, race, and status so that we may discern the common good you desire for us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, protect those whose human dignity has been denied and oppressed in our nation. Raise the voices of those who have been silenced, and bring justice where power has been abused for personal gain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, walk with all whose lives have been disturbed or destroyed by events of this year: natural disasters, the coronavirus, demonstrations and protests, along with "normal" ills and accidents. Bring healing interventions, peace, and safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, 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. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, **Our Father**

Closing Hymn *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (public domain) LBW 370, ELW 656

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The unity of heart and mind is like to that above.***

***Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.***

***We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.***

***From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.***

Benediction: 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. Amen.