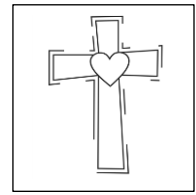


Perley Lutheran Parish
November 1st, 2020
All Saint's Day



Gathering Hymn: For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest.
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Welcome and Announcements

Back to one service – 9AM
November/December plan
Newsletter mailed
Kidz Connection & Confirmation – PLEASE READ

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy One,

We confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. 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.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through +Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **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

Psalms 34:1-10 & 22 (Read Responsively)

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.** O magnify the LORD with me and let us exalt his name together. **I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.** Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. **This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. **O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.** O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want. **The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.** The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

First Reading 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. 10 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 worshiped God, singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever 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 center 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.”

Holy Gospel according Matthew 5:1-12, **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.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Message

Today, we are going to fix a tasty snack. Oh boy, that sounds like fun. The first thing we need is a recipe. You know what a recipe is, don’t you? A recipe is a set of instructions, including a list of all the ingredients. I have a recipe to make a delicious and healthy trail mix.

And here are the trail mix ingredients we need and a bowl to mix it in. (Show the items.)

Can you help me make this trail mix? Let’s read the recipe to know how to make it. First, we will add some Chex Mix and M&Ms. (Hand the bags to children to pour into the bowl.)

Let’s see, next we add some pretzel sticks and then some yogurt-covered raisins. (Hand the bags to children to pour into the bowl.)

We’re not done! We still have two more ingredients for our trail mix. Let’s add the Cheez Its and the Honeycomb cereal. (Hand the bags to children to pour into the bowl.)

Well, the trail mix is all finished and I need someone to stir it. (Choose a child to gently stir the trail mix.)

So now we have a tasty snack we can enjoy later. (Set the trail mix aside.)

Did you know that Jesus gave us a recipe for living a happy life? In the book of Matthew, the Bible says, "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them." He taught them a lesson we call "The Beatitudes." Each one of the beatitudes starts with the words, "Blessed are they..." Some translations of the Bible use the word happy instead of blessed. So this is Jesus' recipe for us to be happy.

I like that the word "beatitudes" has two parts to it: be and attitude. The Beatitudes are ways that we can *be* and *attitudes* we can have. Let's look at a few of these be-attitudes.

Jesus said to... be merciful to people. To be kind when they are hurting.

Jesus said to...be peacemakers when people are fighting.

Jesus said to...have an attitude of pure thoughts.

Jesus said to..have an attitude of wanting to do right.

Jesus also said that when we are sad, God comforts us and then we are happy.

I like that Jesus gave us a recipe for how to be and what kind of attitudes to have. And Jesus says that we will be happy if we follow His recipe.

Dear God, thank You for the beatitudes. Please help us follow Your recipe for a happy and blessed life. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Our gospel this morning is one that we have all heard many many times. It's a beautiful reminder of all the wonderful things that God has given us and how blessed we are. I decided, however, today to speak not on the gospel but rather on what day this day is in the church calendar. This Sunday is All Saints Sunday. Saints – dictionary. Com defines a saint as the following:

1. a person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and typically regarded as being in heaven after death.
2. a very virtuous, kind, or patient person. - "she's a saint to go on living with that man"

As a kid I always thought that a Saint was someone that was better than others, someone who rose above the rest of us, those that had earned a special place but the reality is that they or we don't have to be perfect to be saintly. You and I can indeed be a saint. You and I are believers in God and therefore we can join in community with God and each other.

Let us take a moment this morning to look at these saints – those who have journeyed with in the past, those that we travel with today and those that we will join together with in the future. We first look at the saints of our past. People that made a difference in our lives, in our country, in our world. Those that have found their place in heaven already. I have a number of people in my past who were a very important part of who I am today and the giving and serving person that I try to be. People who had amazing values, amazing talents they shared, positive outlooks on life and reasoning and understanding that helped to form me into the Christian that I have become. It is these types of saints that our own heritage of faith is formed through.

I have mentioned before how I had a connection with Grace Lutheran Church in Ada, in that I visited there many times each year as I would attend with my grandmother and my extended family. I walk into the church even today and the stained glass windows and the hanging chandeliers of color and so much of the actual architecture of the church still warms my heart and makes me feel at home all these years later. Yes, the building is beautiful and all but it's not really the actual space that gives me such joy it is the feelings of God that I would feel when I was in that church, sitting in the pew next to my grandmother, singing the hymns and reading the passages. That place was where I felt my grandmother as a saint.

I'm certain that you have over the years of this church known and felt the presence of many saints in this space. Memories may flash through your mind of those who were leaders and givers and sharers in the congregation. Those that tended to the kitchen, or the altar, or sang their praises in the choir, or cared for the flowers or..... the list goes on and on. We all watched as they did what needed to be done to care for the church and for their brothers and sisters in Christ. They passed on their knowledge and their wisdom and we learned from them how and what to do.

It's wonderful to take time to remember those who are special to us and have gone before us. It's ok to take a moment to mourn their loss and cherish all the times we had with them. We remember them each and every time we recite the Apostles Creed. It's easy to gloss over as we recite those familiar words but we "believe in the communion of saints" – we believe that we continue to have relationship with those that are in heaven and that they are with us until the day that we reunite again.

There is a beautiful writing by a man named Frederick Buechner that says "when you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind, even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my words and speak to me in your heart." WOW – isn't that so assuring?

The friendships and relationships that we have with our past saints surely lead us into relationships in the present. Our present moment is made up of fellow believers, those that accept Jesus Christ and share in the love and trust that God has promised. We gather together in a community of faith believers because it is from our mutual witness that our faith remains strong and alive. We can draw confidence and trust, courage and faith, strength and understanding from each other and the Lord to allow us to be His witnesses in this world of believers and non-believers. We need each other in this present community to give us strength and the assurance that our faith can be strong regardless of the many challenges that get thrown our way in this world.

The Beatitudes are a clear description of the faithful as they live in this world. These descriptions actually turn the ways of this world upside down – they are not the victors but rather the victims who despite everything they do indeed receive victory through Jesus Christ. Think about this passage "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted". This passage has many different meanings or interpretations. One of them describes the love and the faithfulness of the community of believers. It's saying blessed, happy, blessed is the person who identifies – understands and accepts the sorrows of this world. Blessed are you who walk alongside another who is facing brokenness. Blessed are you who give support, strength, give encouragement and reassurance through the sharing of God's Word.

Do you feel it? Do you see that being in community with one another – being a witness to God working in and through us – being a saint for another saint – is what this whole Church is all about. Being the body of Christ is about the communion of saints. Being able to be and walk with one another down a path without believing that YOU know the directions. Being able to share another burdens without making it your own. In this All Saints Day I hope we can find time for each of us to turn to our brothers and sisters in Christ to give them strength and courage, comfort and confidence in their walk along-side you in your journey in faith.

Help us all to remember with each and every step we take, each and every breath we breathe – all of these lead us just a little closer to our end of time here. And that’s ok because we all are headed to eternal life with God just as he promised for all who believe in Christ. Jesus said it “I am the Resurrection and the life, he who believes in me shall never die”. We can hold on to that promise each and every day knowing that. Each and every day we can live in the joy and the hope of that promise. As saints – those who have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb, can live with conviction and assurance and hope that there is indeed life after this one. Each day we can live in Christ - and for Christ - so that some tomorrow we might be with Christ and resting in our heavenly home. Amen

Special Hymn of the Day: **Praise the Father, Praise the Son**

Oh sovereign God, oh matchless King. The saints adore, the angels sing
And fall before the throne on grace to you belongs the highest praise.

These sufferings, this passing tide under Your wings I will abide,
And every enemy shall flee, you are my hope and victory.

Praise the Father, praise the Son, Praise the Spirit, three in One.
Clothed in power and in grace, the name above all other names.
To the valley, for my soul, thy great descent has made me whole!

You word my heart has welcomed home, now peace like water ever flows.
Yours is the kingdom, yours is the power.
Yours is the glory forever, yours is the kingdom,
Yours is the power, yours is the glory forever.

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**)

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**

Sovereign God, gather our country around a shared table this week during our national election. Open fruitful dialogue between people of every political party, place, age, and social economic status so that we may discern the common good you desire for us. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Loving God, accompany those in new and unfamiliar places who need an invitation to community. Help us all be welcoming and inviting to the community of Kirkebo and Nora as we serve and love and share together in the good news of Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Gracious God, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, peace workers and world leaders who navigate conflict - especially this week as we begin to learn and accept the outcome of our countries election and those that continue to deal with the conflicts regarding best practices of the pandemic and racial disparity within our country. May leaders proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevail? Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Healing God, even when we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Alana and Jeff, like Kirk and Brent, like Paxley and Vern, like Veronica and Lisa and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. 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**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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.

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

Meal

After Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen

Honoring and Remembrance of all Saints- Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Tolling of the Bell- Daniel Dosland, Jeffrey Hoff, Adlyne Ohnstad, Maryls Dullum, Wayne Erickson

Prayer for All Saints

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

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, +Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. Amen.

Sending Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with saints at the river that flows by the throne of God

Dismissal – Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday November 8th – Kirkebo 9am service. Council at Kirkebo after service

Sunday November 15th – Nora 9am service. Council at Nora after service

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