



Since we are surrounded by so great a  
cloud of witnesses, let us [look] to Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith.

+ *Hebrews 12:1a, 2a*

**ALL SAINTS' DAY**

**November 1, 2020**



*Detail of the Ghent Altarpiece showing the Adoration of the Lamb by Jan van Eyck (c. 1366-1426), Public Domain*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In probably a matter of days (I'm only half-joking), the radio stations will be taken over by Christmas Music! Oh, poor Thanksgiving—always being overlooked (but, to be fair, I don't know any good Thanksgiving songs). One of my favorite Christmas carols actually has a good connection with today: "God rest you merry, gentlemen," with "tidings of comfort and joy."

Those tidings were made because our Lord had entered human history. And we shall finally realize those tidings for ourselves when we join the saints in eternal glory—they who are seen in the vision we read from the Revelation of Saint John.

But for the time being, we wait—and we rely on hope to get us through each day, just as Saint Paul writes in the Epistle. This hope is based on our being God's adopted children, brothers and sisters of our risen Lord Jesus. It is both comforting and joyful, no matter our circumstances. And as Jesus proclaims in the Gospel's Beatitudes, people with such hope are blessed indeed! Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

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## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: For All the Saints

LSB 677, sts. 1–5



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,



Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old And  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; Yet  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song, And



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
win with them the victor's crown of gold!  
all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
hearts are brave a gain, and arms are strong.



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

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

*Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

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

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,  
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*[Hebrews 10:22]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalm 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Psalm 32:5*

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

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

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.*



*(Antiphon)* These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

<sup>1</sup> In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame; \*  
in Your righteousness de- | liver me.

<sup>3</sup> **For You are my rock and my | fortress; \*  
and for Your name's sake You lead me and | guide me.**

<sup>5</sup> Into Your hand I commit my | spirit; \*  
You have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*

### KYRIE

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

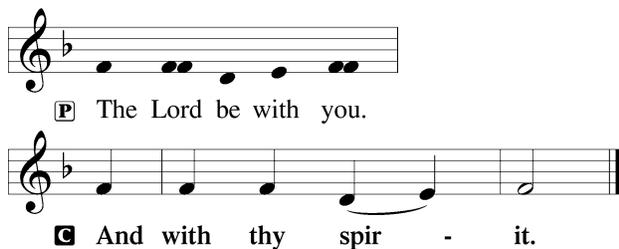
# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

# SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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.



*Sit*

### FIRST READING

*Revelation 7:9–17*

**P** The First Reading is from the Revelation of Saint John, chapter seven.

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

And he said to me, “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. <sup>15</sup>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 shelter them with His presence. <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### GRADUAL

*Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively.*



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

**Blessèd are those whose strength is | in You,\*  
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.**

### EPISTLE READING

*1 John 3:1–3*

**P** The Epistle is from First John, chapter three.

<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

**ALLELUIA & VERSE**



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

*Hebrews 12:1a, 2a*

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** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 5:1-12*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the fifth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

<sup>2</sup>And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

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

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**NICENE CREED**

**C** 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.

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: For All the Saints**

*LSB 677, sts. 1, 6-8*



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
 6 The golden evening brightens in the west;  
 7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: The  
 Δ 8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through



Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy  
 Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;  
 saints triumphant rise in bright array; The  
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host,



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
 Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
 King of Glory passes on His way.  
 Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:



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!

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

**SERMON**

*Rev. Griebenaw*

*After the Sermon the pastor may say:*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:7*

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** 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:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For Matthew and Michael, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For Donald, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayers then continue:*

## REMEMBRANCE OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**P** In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before the Lord our departed family and friends who have gone before us in faith and all those who are in our hearts and minds this day.

*The names of those to be remembered are read; a bell is tolled after each name.*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving those who loved and served You in Your Church on earth and who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of Your heavenly kingdom; 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 live-stream service concludes with the following:*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

**P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

*The Divine Service will continue with the Lord's Supper for those present at the church. Please sing and/or read aloud the closing hymn in your home and, if possible, please come by the church for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.*

**CLOSING 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 and tune: Public Domain*

**✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠**  
**(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)**

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Life in this world has been described as a “vale (or valley) of tears.”

It may not feel like a “vale of tears” all the time but you’ve been there, haven’t you? You shed tears when your body hurts due to an injury or when your heart aches due to the death of one you love. You weep when you feel lonely or when your heart breaks out of sympathy for a friend.

Life is filled with tears. In His compassion for you, Jesus enters this “vale of tears” through His life, suffering, and death so that He may eternally embrace you. And because He is risen from the dead, Jesus promises to wipe away every tear from your eyes, enabling you to share in His resurrection victory.

Today, as we remember our Christian brothers and sisters who have died this past year and now rest in Jesus, you may find yourself shedding tears anew, but you can do so with confidence that your risen and reigning Savior lives to wipe away the tears of all who trust in Him!

And trust is another important thing for us to remember as we approach Election Day. For myself, I can’t remember a time when this nation has been so divided, the populace so angry, or an election driven by such fear.

No matter the result of the election—be it for good or for ill—take comfort in the knowledge that Almighty God is ever in control and that His divine providence endures . . . ALWAYS!

And so I offer you this prayer (and I hope that you will pray it with me this week):

*O merciful Father in heaven, from You comes all rule and authority over the nations of the world for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well. Graciously regard Your servants, those who make, administer, and judge the laws of this nation, and look in mercy upon all the rulers of the earth. Grant that all who receive the sword as Your servants may bear it according to Your command. Enlighten and defend them, and grant them wisdom and understanding that under their peaceable governance Your people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, and unity. Protect and prolong their lives that we with them may show forth the praise of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Speaking of Election Day . . . please join me on **Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)** for our **Study of the Psalms** on “Zoom.” We socialize for the first 15 minutes and work through the psalm from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, finishing by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 28.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#

And tune-in to Facebook **each Wednesday at 7:00pm** for a short **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm. The service folder is on our website ([www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org](http://www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org)) and the live-stream is on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro](http://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro)).

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box:

- Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church  
PO Box 1530  
El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw