ALL SAINTS DAY
OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, A.D. 2026
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WEST POINT, NEBRASKA

Bought by Christ, Brought Together in Faith

AS WE GATHER

All Saints' Day has become a day to remember the faithful departed. But today is not only about the saints of the past. The saints of the present faithfully fill our pews and confess the name of Jesus. While Christ has called home His church triumphant, the church militant continues His mission to make disciples of all nations. On this day, we celebrate the victory of Jesus, who makes a home for those who rest in the faith and fuels the church in active service to His kingdom.

HYMN "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" LSB 822

1 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
To God the Father let us bring
Our songs of adoration.
To Him through everlasting days
Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,
Whose hand sustains creation.
Singing, ringing:
Holy, holy,
God is holy;
Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory.

2 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Lamb of God we sing,
In whom we are elected.
He bought His Church with His own blood,
He cleansed her in that blessèd flood,
And as His bride selected.
Holy, holy
Is our union
And communion.
His befriending
Gives us joy and peace unending.

3 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Holy Ghost we sing
For our regeneration.
The saving faith in us He wrought
And us unto the Bridegroom brought,
Made us His chosen nation.
Glory! Glory!
Joy eternal,
Bliss supernal;
There is manna
And an endless, glad hosanna.

4 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto our triune God we sing;
Blest be His name forever!

With angel hosts let us adore
And sing His praises evermore
For all His grace and favor!
Singing, ringing:
Holy, holy,
God is holy;
Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory!

Text: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; setting: Choralbuch zum Evangelischen Kirchengesangbuch, Berlin, 1955
Text and music: Public domain
Setting: © 1955 Verlag Merseburger

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 30:4–5*

P Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,
C **and give thanks to His holy name.**

P For His anger is but for a moment,
C **and His favor is for a lifetime.**

P Weeping may tarry for the night,
C **but joy comes with the morning.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *[Psalm 32:5]; Matthew 5:3*

P As saints and yet sinners, we call upon the mercy of God, our heavenly Father. O almighty God,
C **You rule and reign with justice. As Your people, we should love all Your decrees. Yet our hearts are hard. We prefer our ways to Your ways. We shout our freedoms but whisper Your correction. You call us salt and light, yet over and over we choose the darkness. Forgive us, Father, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus. Renew our hearts that we might rejoice as the saints You call us to be.**

Pause for silent reflection

P To make sinners into saints of His kingdom, God in His mercy sent forth Jesus, who declares, "blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The blood of Jesus has opened the door to the Kingdom where He rules and reigns, now and forever. As a called and ordained servant of the living Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

INTROIT *(Entrance Psalm)* *Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b*

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
C **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

P In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
C **in your righteousness deliver me.**

P For you are my rock and my fortress;
C **and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.**

P Into your hand I commit my spirit;
C **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 beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
C **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

KYRIE *(Lord, have mercy ~ A prayer for peace with God and one another)* *Mark 10:47*

P Father of all saints,
C **have mercy.**

P Savior of all saints,
C **have mercy.**

P Spirit of all saints,
C **have mercy.**

SALUTATION *Ruth 2:4*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, Lord of saints below and saints above, Your Word puts the sinner to death and raises us to righteousness. Bind Your church in faith that we might evermore declare the glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

FIRST READING *Revelation 7:9–17*

After this 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 were 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! Praise 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." (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 John 3:1–3*

How great is the love the Father has lavished on 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. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:1–12*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach 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 be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED *[Matthew 5:3]*

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and

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.

HYMN "Oh, How Blest Are They" LSB 679

1 Oh, how blest are they whose toils are ended,
Who through death have unto God ascended!
They have arisen
From the cares which keep us still in prison.

2 We are still as in a dungeon living,
Still oppressed with sorrow and misgiving;
Our undertakings
Are but toils and troubles and heartbreakings.

3 They meanwhile are in their chambers sleeping,
Quiet and set free from all their weeping;
No cross or sadness
There can hinder their untroubled gladness.

4 Christ has wiped away their tears forever;
They have that for which we still endeavor.
By them are chanted
Songs that ne'er to mortal ears were granted.

5 Come, O Christ, and loose the chains that bind us;
Lead us forth and cast this world behind us.
With You, the_Anointed,
Finds the soul its joy and rest appointed.

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. Henry W. Longfellow, 1807–92, alt.
Tune; Johann Storls…Schlag-Gesang - Und Noten - Buch, Stuttgart, 1744;
Text and music: Public domain

SERMON *"What are the saints doing while waiting for the Savior's Return?"*
Revelation 7:9-17, Matthew 5:1-12

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *[2 Corinthians 8-9]*

HYMN "Behold A Host, Arrayed in White" LSB 676

1 Behold a host, arrayed in white,
Like thousand snow-clad mountains bright!
With palms they stand;
Who is this band
Before the throne of light?

These are the saints of glorious fame,
Who from the great affliction came
And in the flood
Of Jesus' blood
Are cleansed from guilt and shame.
They now serve God both day and night;
They sing their songs in endless light.
Their anthems ring
As they all sing
With angels shining bright.

2 Despised and scorned, they sojourned here;
But now, how glorious they appear!
Those martyrs stand,
A priestly band,
God's throne forever near.
On earth they wept through bitter years;
Now God has wiped away their tears,
Transformed their strife
To heav'nly life,
And freed them from their fears.
They now enjoy the Sabbath rest,
The heav'nly banquet of the blest;
The Lamb, their Lord,
At festive board
Himself is host and guest.

3 O blessèd saints in bright array
Now safely home in endless day,
Extol the Lord,
Who with His Word
Sustained you on the way.
The steep and narrow path you trod;
You toiled and sowed the Word abroad;
Rejoice and bring
Your fruits and sing
Before the throne of God.
The myriad angels raise their song;
O saints, sing with that happy throng!
Lift up one voice;
Let heav'n rejoice
In our Redeemer's song!

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent.; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Text and music: Public domain

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED *Revelation 14:13*

P Alleluia! I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this:
C **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."**

P "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors,
C **for their deeds follow them!" Alleluia!**

P On this All Saints' Day, we remember our hope in Jesus Christ, His grace, and His assurance of everlasting life, and we remember those saints who in death have claimed the crown of righteousness promised to all who trust in Christ as Lord and Savior.

Names of departed saints from the past year are read aloud, accompanied by a tolling bell

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

P Just as the saints above surround the throne, we gather to plead for Your mercy, O Lord, for ourselves, our community, our nation, and our world.

Heavenly Father, You have called us Your children, and so we are. Fix our eyes on Your love, that we might be pure as Christ is pure and walk in hope of the glory yet to be revealed. Blessed are Your saints, O Lord.

C **Keep us faithful unto everlasting life.**

P Merciful Savior, You opened Your heart to the poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, and the persecuted. Be the strength of the weak and the consolation of the hurting, [*especially . . .*]. Blessed are Your saints, O Lord.

C **Keep us faithful unto everlasting life.**

P Eternal King, as an uncountable multitude sings of the salvation that belongs to the Lamb on the throne, make us aware of the struggles of Christians of every tribe and language, that we might support them with our prayers and charity. Blessed are Your saints, O Lord.

C **Keep us faithful unto everlasting life.**

P Compassionate Christ, as You remember those who mourn, make us tender to care for those who grieve. Wipe away their tears with the hope of heaven and sustain them in body and soul until the day when pain and death are no more. Blessed are Your saints, O Lord.

C **Keep us faithful unto everlasting life.**

P Faithful Lord, teach us a new song to sing, that as Your saints in this place we might impact our families and neighborhoods, displaying Your goodness and declaring Your Gospel. Blessed are Your saints, O Lord.

C **Keep us faithful unto everlasting life.**

[Other thanksgivings and petitions may be offered here, followed by…]

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For Your daily mercies, for our Baptism into Christ, for the faithfulness of Your church, and for the hope of Your return, we give You all glory and honor, O Lord, now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR –
God Connects Christ with the Saints below and the Saints above

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *Psalm 136]*

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *[Holy, Holy, Holy]* *LSB 208; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P In hope, Lord, we lift to You grateful hearts, for You sustain Your saints in their earthly battles and give to Your heaven-bound saints a holy rest. As You feed and fend for Your saints by Your gracious hand, prepare our hearts to receive You in Your Word, at this Table, and in the triumphant return of Christ with all His saints, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PAX DOMINI *(Peace of the Lord)* *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *(Lamb of God)* *LSB 210; John 1:29*

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

HYMN "For All the Saints" LSB 677

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

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;

Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
Text and music: Public domain

HYMN "Thine The Amen, Thine The Praise" LSB 680

1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night
No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree

Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009
Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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HYMN "I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light" LSB 411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

ref In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934–2025
Music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.
Through this Meal, O Father, You once again mark us with the mercy that makes us Your saints. Fed and fueled by the gifts of Christ, prepare us for every good work, that we might know that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES *Psalm 116:15, Revelation 14:*

P Alleluia! Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints!
C **They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

P 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 T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

HYMN "Jerusalem the Golden" LSB 672

1 Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest—
The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest—
We know not, oh, we know not
What joys await us there:
The radiancy of glory,
The bliss beyond compare!

2 Within those walls of Zion
Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them;
The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessèd
Shines bright with glorious sheen.

3 Around the throne of David,
The saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader,
Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever
Their gleaming robes of white.

4 O sweet and blessèd country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessèd country
That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us
To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830-95; alt.; setting: Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861
Text and music: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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