**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, November 1, 2020**

***All Saints Sunday***

**Introduction to the day**

*All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord’s table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.*

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.** **Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake

God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Song *Sing with All the Saints in Glory* (ELW 426)**

(hum or sing softly with mask on)

1 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 awaken, knowing everlasting peace.  
  
2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!  
Holiest hearts for ages pleading never that full joy conceived.  
God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.  
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.  
  
3 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!

**Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Litany for the Saints:**

P: Let us remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith. He gave them new life through Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism and nourished them in the company of all God’s people in the Eucharist, and in God’s great mercy has summoned them to His presence so that they may continue in joyful service forever. O Lord Most High, we give thanks for all your saints, especially the following saints who have departed from this earthly life this past year: Maude Zerby 3/10/2020

Maxine Charles 3/17/2020

Virginia Osborne 5/6/2020

Wayne Hall 7/20/20 n.m.

Melinda “Mo” Watts 7/25/2020

Mae Pearl Kuehl 10/25/2020

*You are invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of the Saints Triumphant and place it in the sand tray.*

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17**

L: A reading from Revelation.

*The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today’s reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: “Who is able to stand?” The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God’s protection and a vision of victory.*

9After 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. 10They cried out in a loud voice, saying,   
 “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”  
11And 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, 12singing,   
 “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
 and thanksgiving and honor  
 and power and might  
 be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”  
  13Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14I 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.  
 15For 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.  
 16They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
  the sun will not strike them,  
  nor any scorching heat;  
 17for 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.”

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 34:1-10, 22 read responsively**

1I will bless the Lord at all times;  
  the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.  
 2**I will glory in the Lord;**  
  **let the lowly hear and rejoice.**   
 3Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;  
  let us exalt God’s name together.  
 4**I sought the Lord, who answered me**  
  **and delivered me from all my terrors.**  
 5Look upon the Lord and be radiant,  
  and let not your faces be ashamed.  
 6**I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me**  
  **and saved me from all my troubles.**   
 7The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord  
  and delivers them.  
 8**Taste and see that the Lord is good;**  
  **happy are they who take refuge in God!**

9Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,  
  for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.  
 10**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,**  
  **but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**  
 22O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants,  
  and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

**Second Reading:** **1 John 3:1-3**

L: A reading from 1 John.

*A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God’s purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.*

1See what love the Father has given 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. 2Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God’s favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.*

1When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
  3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
  4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
  5“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
  6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
  7“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
  8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
  9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
  10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
  11“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

***Silence for meditation***

**Hymn of the DaY *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (ELW 773)**

(Hum or sing softly with mask on)

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

Through the storm, through the night, lead mr on to the light.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,

When my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,

And the day is past and gone,

At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

**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 catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: 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.

*A brief silence.*

A: Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of every blessing, your Son’s blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod (especially). Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of every time, 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 (here the names of those who have died in the previous year may be read). In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**CHOIR ANTHEM –** *We’ll Understand It Better By and By*

**Offering Prayer**

A: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink,

and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,

through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface by Pastor**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

With all the saints of Africa and Asia, India and the islands, Europe and the Americas,

we praise you, O God, for you create the worlds.

With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten,

we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food.

With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present,

we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations.

With all your holy people, those who ministered in the church, those who served the poor,

and all who walked the way of the cross,

we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth.

With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son:

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With Peter and all the martyrs, we honor Christ’s death, saying Amen. **Amen!**

With Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, we proclaim his resurrection, shouting Amen. **Amen!**

With John and all the theologians and mystics, we look for his returning, pleading Amen. **Amen!**

With the Virgin Mary and all who sang of your greatness,

we pray for the power of the Spirit.

Visit this gathering, this bread and this cup,

with the presence of the body and blood of Christ.

Form us into a communion of service,

and infuse your earth with the wholeness we seek.

With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal,

and especially with names of beloved saints or the local deceased,

lead us to a future we cannot yet see,

and at the end draw all humanity to yourself.

Now with all of the family you saved by your love,

we shout blessing **blessing**, glory **glory**, wisdom **wisdom**, thanksgiving **thanksgiving**,

honor **honor**, power **power**, might **might**, be to our God forever and ever. Amen. **Amen!**

**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;**

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

P: There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus’ table.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Please come forward to receive the “body of Christ” by holding out your hands in a cup like fashion as far as you can. The Pastor will drop the wafer into your hand, saying “the body of Christ given for you,” and you respond “Amen,” then go to the left or right and receive the “blood of Christ” from a pre-filled glass. The glasses will be separated so you don’t touch one another. Take the glass and the communion assistant standing in the choir loft will say, “the blood of Christ shed for you.” There will be a separate tray of glasses with grape juice for those who prefer grape juice.*

**Communion**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

**Communion Song**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **grant us peace.**

**Song after Communion*Jesus, Remember Me***

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**Prayer after Communion**

A: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

***Please leave your offering in the offertory plate located at each exit of the church.***

***Announcements***

***We extend our*** *sympathies to the family of Mae Pearl Kuehl who died Sunday night at Williamsport hospital. Please keep Dave and the family in your prayers.*

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Ralph Lehman, Sara Leighow, Caleb Leone, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Cora Pellitier, Jack Rishel, Joann Rishel, Ben Saar, Jane Shaffer, Rev. Gary Shumway, John Truax, Jillian Waldman, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Everyone affected by the fires on the West Coast; Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; our sister church, St. Wunibald in Heidenheim, Germany and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of former J.O.Y. Class members who

have joined the saints triumphant.

Special Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lectors – Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers - Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Acolyte –; Communion Assistants-; Head Usher -Shane Snyder; Tellers- Shane Snyder and Dawn McCloskey; Bulletin sponsor -;

Next week’s helpers: Lectors –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers -Bill Ely Jr. and Ken Dougherty; Acolyte –; Communion Assistants -; Head Usher -Dawn McCloskey; Tellers-

Shane Snyder and Dawn McCloskey; Bulletin sponsor -;

The Lutheran Church **Women’s Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

**Bible Study -** Bible Study will be held at 10:00 a.m. every Monday in the large Sunday School room. We will study the book of Esther. Please join us. We will begin on November 16 a new Bible Study for Advent: *A Wonderful Life.*

**Chancel Choir is FUN!**  -Yes, you need to go to rehearsal, but we are a great group.  Choir invites you to join us—make a joyful noise unto the Lord and have great fellowship!  Choir will practice Wednesday, October 21 and 28 at 6:30 p.m. and sing an anthem beginning on Sunday, November 1.  Choir members will be asked / required to wear a mask or shield at all times, and we will work on socially distancing at rehearsal and in the nave. We’d love for you to join us!

**Women of the Church -** There will be a Women of the Church meeting following the 9:00 a.m. service in the Chapel on Sunday, November 1st to discuss the Christmas Bazaar.

**Veterans Day Celebration -** A special liturgy will be used on November 8 to recognize our veterans and give thanks for their service to our country. We invite all our veterans to join us in worship that day as we pay tribute to those who served our country.

**Harvest Home**  - Our annual collection of food donations for Harvest Home will be on Sunday. November 15. This year we will be collecting any flavor of Jello for the Food Pantry.

**Congregation Meeting** - The annual congregation meeting to elect new council members, elect synod delegates, and approve the 2021 budget will be held after the worship service on Sunday, November 22. If interested in serving as a synod delegate, please let Pastor or Bill Ely know now. We need 2 candidates. Conference Assembly will be in May and Synod Assembly will be in June.

**The First Sunday in Advent is November 29.**

Woolrich and McElhattan United Methodist Churches are conducting their annual Christmas stocking stuffer for area families. They are asking for donations of small items for a stocking: slinky’s, match box cars, hair ties, stickers, crayons, toothbrushes, anything small that one would fit in a stocking by November 8. Either leave at St. John or Woolrich United Methodist Church. They will have a drive-by distribution before Christmas.

**Giving Plus+ -** Download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Aucker.

**Give+ Text:** Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

***THIS WEEK’S EVENTS***

Sunday, November 1, 2020 *All Saints Sunday*

*Seafarers Bags Due*

9:00 a.m. Nave Worship Service - Choir Anthem

Women of the Church meeting in the Chapel

2:00 p.m. Catechism

7:00 p.m. AA meeting

Monday, November 2, 2020

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

*Election Day*

2:00 p.m. Communion at Manor Care

7:00 p.m. Council

7:30 p.m. A.A. and N. A. meetings

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

10:00 a.m. Prayer/Communion at Trinity Episcopal

6:30 p.m. Choir

Sunday, November 8, 2020

*Veterans Day Service*

*Fall Cash Sunday*

9:00 a.m. Nave Worship Service - Choir Anthem

Endowment Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m. AA meeting

