

## THE HANDS THAT HOLD YOU NOW

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And, also with you.**

Welcome to all here and to those participating over the internet.

Today we come together to celebrate the victory won by our Lord Jesus Christ in his life, death, and resurrection given for all the faithful living and dead. It is a time in the church year in which we intentionally bring our grief to the Lord's table and find here a foretaste of the feast to come. That banquet feast where God will wipe the tears from all our eyes. There will be no more sorrow, for God destroys death itself.

Through the raising of Lazarus in today's gospel reading, Jesus offers us a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more. And the reading from the book of Revelation gives us a vision of the new heaven and earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eliminated.

### READING: A reading from the book of **Revelation 21:1-6**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>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." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Scars in Heaven*

by Casting Crowns

"The only scars in Heaven, are on the hands that hold you now."

## **CANDLE LIGHTING AND REMEMBRANCE**

As we celebrate this, All Saints Sunday, let us remember those who have touched our lives in a special way, those who have helped light our way on earth, but who now enjoy eternal light and life in heaven. I invite you to think of those who have been a light to you. (A few moments of silence.)

We use the symbol of light that Christ used to proclaim his presence among us. John 8:12 *“I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”*

We light a candle for those FELC members who have died within this past year (*bell toll and light candle as names are mentioned*)

- Doris Buttz
- Duane Arch
- Wanda Dettman,
- Sydney McCord
- A candle for all those others who have died (Book of names)

The light of remembrance shines before all here in this gathering.

Let us pray: Almighty God, 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.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves**

**and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,**

**to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,**

**and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,

forgives your sins for + Jesus' sake and remembers them no more.

Life up your heads and your hearts.

Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* ELW #873

**KYRIE** (ELW pages 138-139, setting 3)

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast* (ELW pages 140-141, setting 3)

**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.**

**READING:** A reading from the book of **Isaiah 25:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (ELW page 142, setting 3)

**GOSPEL:** The holy gospel according to **John 11:32-44** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *I Am the Bread of Life* ELW #485

## THE APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. *A brief silence.*

A: Merciful God, we give thanks for all who have brought your message of hope. Continue to raise up courageous people to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless all who prepare and partake in the meal. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation and all others who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And, also with you.**

**OFFERING**        *“I’ll sing with all the Saints”* (2002 John C. Ylvisaker)

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

## **LORD’S PRAYER** (ELW p. 112 right side)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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**

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

Receive communion *“the body of Christ given for you”* and *“the blood of Christ shed for you.”*

**COMMUNION** *Lamb of God*        (ELW page 146, setting 3)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed Jesus,

at this table, you have been for us both host and meal.

Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

## **\*EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

P: Let us pray:

**C: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God, the beginning, and the end, who has written your name in the book of life,

✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *For All the Saints* ELW #422

## **DISMISSAL**

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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