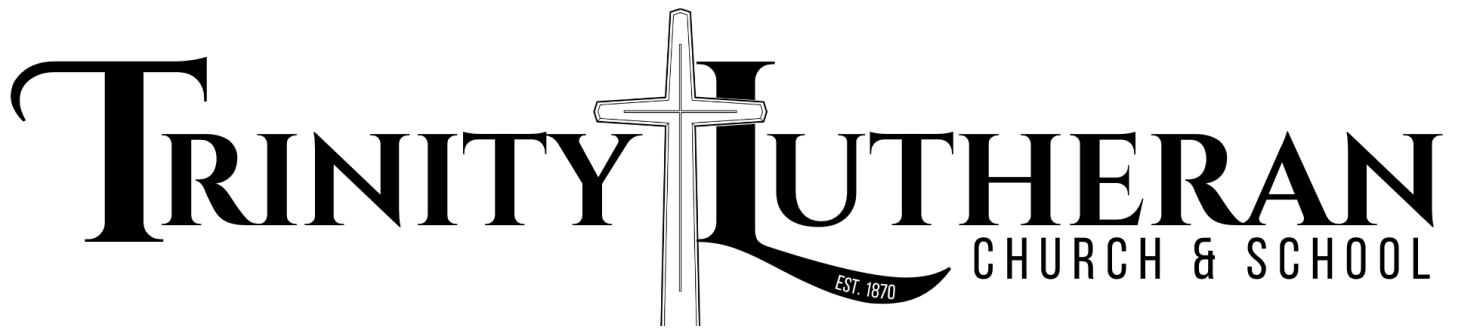




All Saints' Day
October 31 & November 1, 2026



Church

803 Swifts Highway
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 636-6750
churchoffice@trinityjc.org

School

812 Stadium Boulevard
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 636-7807
school@trinityjc.org

Regular Worship

Saturday 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

trinityjc.org
facebook.com/trinitylutheranjc

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church!

Serving Today

Pastor Powell, Preacher

Cody Farris, Organist

Kevin Zorena, Director

Men's Choir

Women's Choir

Handbell Choir

Staff

Sam Powell, Senior Pastor - spowell@trinityjc.org

Angie Brenner, Director of Christian Education - abrenner@trinityjc.org

Jonathan Sprengel, Principal - jsprengel@trinityjc.org

Board of Elders, Jared Kesel, Chair - elders@trinityjc.org

About All Saints' Day

"A great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages" cry out, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne" (Rev. 7:9–10). Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, "shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall "serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:15). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward to our eternal home, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).

Offering

The offering will be collected by passing the offering plates at Sunday services. The offering will be collected in the back of the church at the Saturday service. Offerings can also be given online at www.trinityjc.org.

Holy Communion at Trinity

The Lord's Supper is joyfully received here today. Our Lord delivers His true body and blood into our mouths in, with, and under the bread and wine. For those with faith in the Lord's words, the sacrament forgives sins, strengthens faith, and unites us to the Lord and with one another. All members in good standing of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have publicly confessed this sacred gift and its benefits and are encouraged to commune. Other guests wishing to join our confession and receive this sacrament are asked to meet with a pastor in the weeks before communing. Those who receive the sacrament should examine themselves according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28) and come to the table rejoicing, knowing that the Lord meets them with joy.

Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than the Holy Supper are asked to cross their arms over their chest. We offer gluten-free wafers. The cups in the center of the trays are filled with diluted wine for those who are sensitive to alcohol.

Accessibility

Please speak to one of the ushers for assistive hearing devices or other accessibility needs. A nursery is available for children up to five years old.

Divine Service, Setting Two

Welcome, Silent Prayer, and Ringing of the Bells

Confession and Absolution

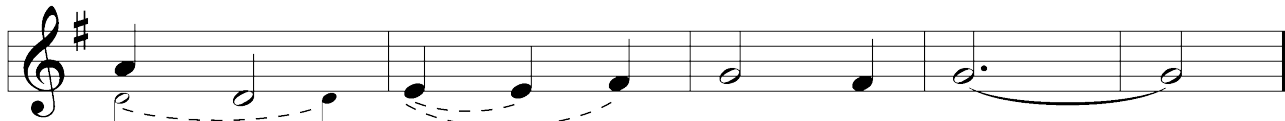
Opening Hymn "Blest Are They"



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; They shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; Mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; They are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, All be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they, full of
her - it the earth. Blest are they who hun - ger and
shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who suf - fer in
cause of Me. Re - joice and be glad, yours is the



sor - row; They shall be con - soled.
thirst; They shall have their fill.
heart; They shall see God!
faith; The glo - ry of God is theirs.
king - dom; Shine for all to see.



Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you,



ho - ly are you. Re - joice and be glad! Yours is the



king - dom of God.

Stand

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8–9

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit *(sung responsively)*

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



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.

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
in your righteousness de- | liver me.

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

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.

Kyrie

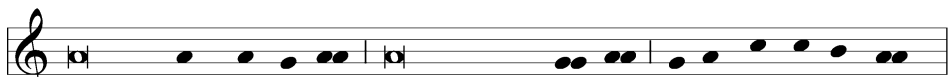
Mark 10:47



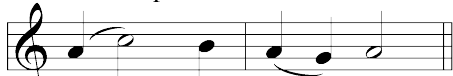
A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



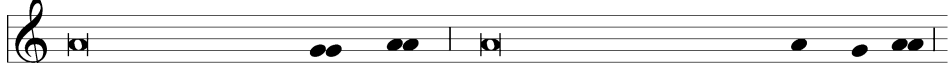
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



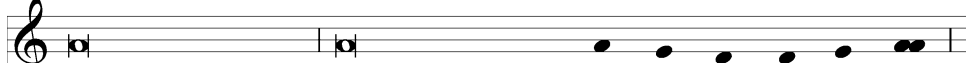
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



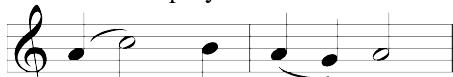
C Lord, have mer - cy.



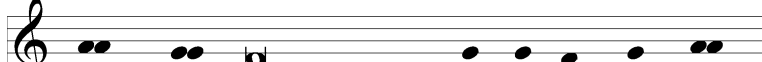
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



C A - men.

This is the Feast

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



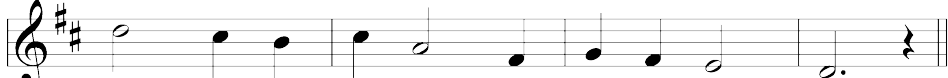
C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia. Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men. This is the feast of vic-tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun His reign. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Revelation 7:2–17

A The First Reading is from Revelation, chapter seven.

Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living

God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm

earth and sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, 12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed. 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, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were

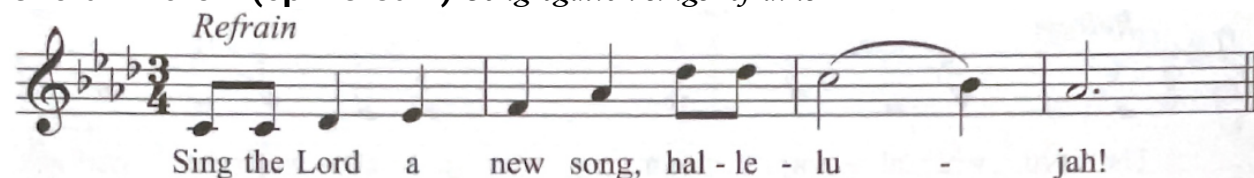
standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” 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. “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. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem (6pm & 8am) *Congregation sings refrains*

“Psalm 149”



Choir:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Hallelujah! Sing the Lord a new song—
where His people gather let them all rejoice!</p> <p>2 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord with dancing,
to the music made by tambourine and harp.
<i>Refrain.</i></p> <p>3 Hallelujah! How He loves His people,
making them the victors though they were so low.</p> <p>4 Hallelujah! Let His faithful people
have a song of joy that follows them to bed.
<i>Refrain.</i></p> | <p>5 Hallelujah! See the humble lifted,
praises in their mouths and swords held in
their hands.</p> <p>6 Hallelujah! See the kings in fetters,
nobles put in chains as nations get their due.
<i>Refrain</i></p> <p>7 Hallelujah! See the faithful people
take the word of justice to the high and
proud.</p> <p>8 Hallelujah! This will be their glory—
humble people lifted see the mighty fall.
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

Handbell Anthem (10:30am)

“Father Welcomes”

Epistle

1 John 3:1–3

A The Epistle is from 1 John, chapter three.

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. 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. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

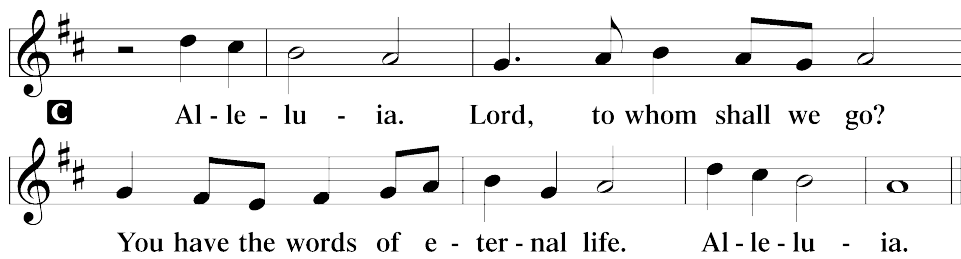
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.



Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure

in heart, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Hymn of the Day: "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White"

Hymn 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!

Stand

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.

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

After the prayer:

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.
C Amen.

Offering

Please complete the Record of Fellowship and pass back to the center aisle.

Choral Anthem (6pm & 8am)

*“Thou Art Holy”
“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

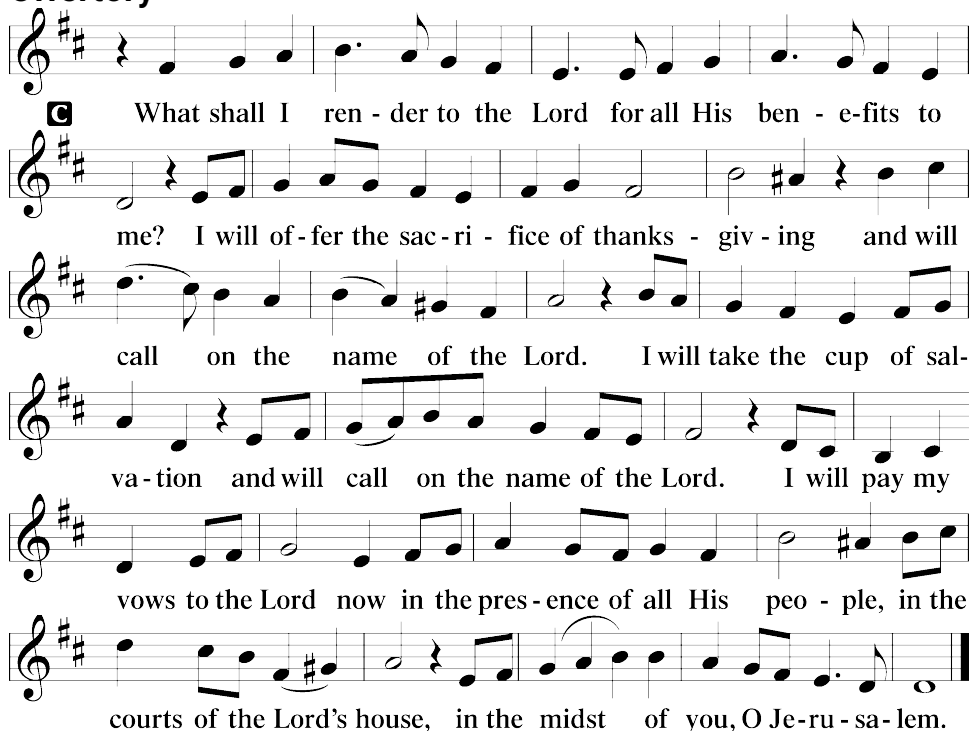
Handbell Anthem (10:30am)

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Stand

Offertory

Psalms 116:12–13, 17–19



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface



P The Lord be with you.
C And al-so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
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.

2 Timothy 4:22

[Colossians 3:1]

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

Matthew 6:9-13

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution Hymns:

“Jerusalem the Golden”

Hymn 672

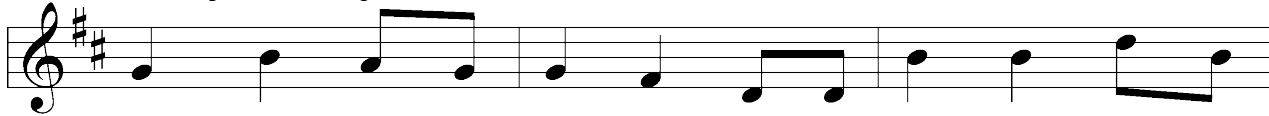
1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
△ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!
The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!
We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest
The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

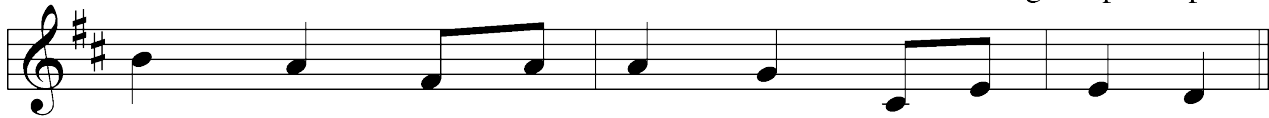
Hymn 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



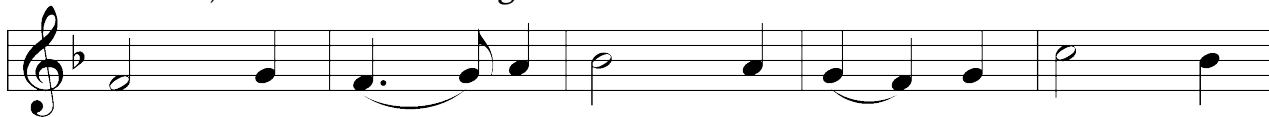
in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymn 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



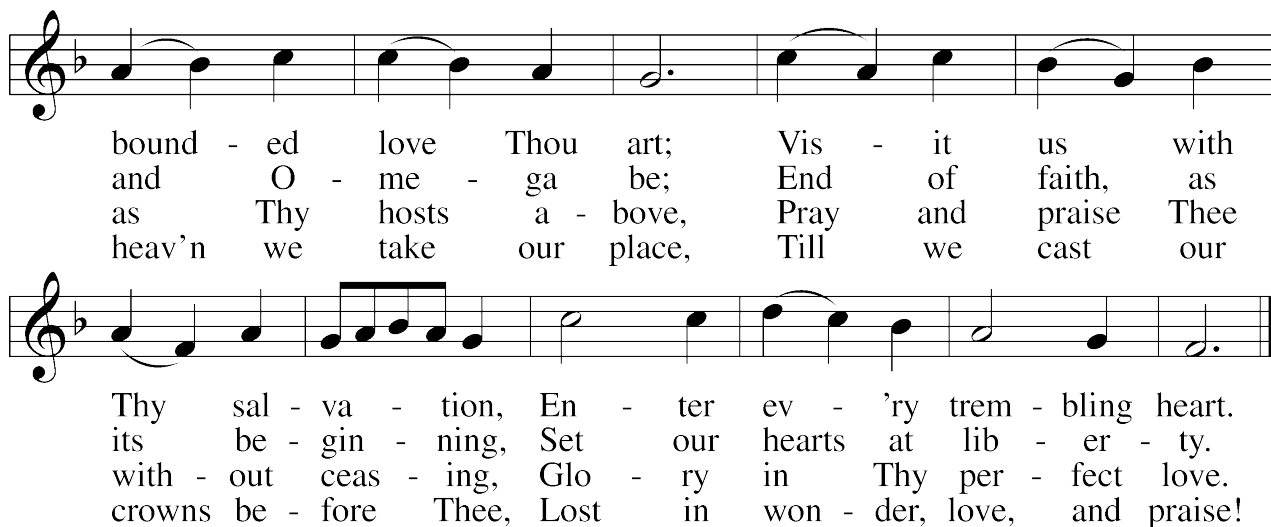
heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



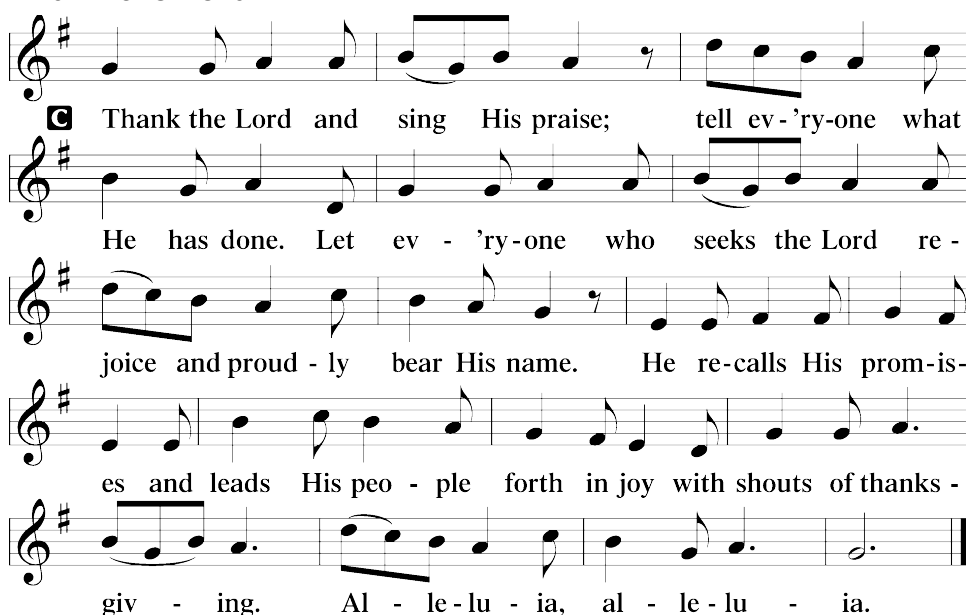
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Stand

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
O God the Father... one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Benediction

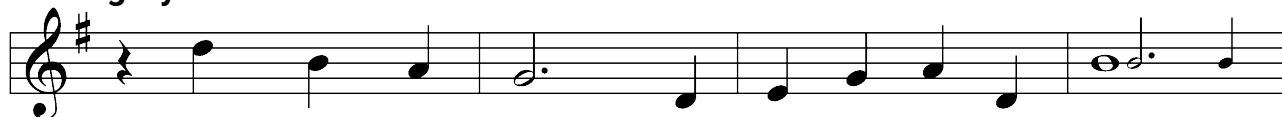
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



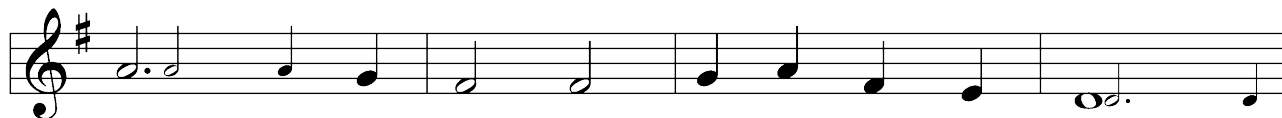
C A - men.

Closing Hymn: "For All the Saints"

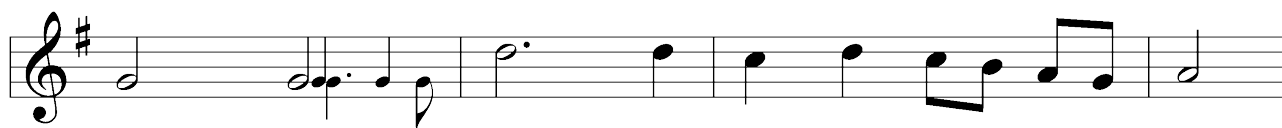
Hymn 677



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!



Who Thee by faith be-fore the world confessed, Thy
 Thou, Lord, their cap-tain in the well-fought fight;
 Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old And
 We fee-bly strug-gle, they in glo-ry shine; Yet



name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest.
 Thou, in the dark-ness dwell, their one true light.
 win with them the vic-tor's crown of gold!
 all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.



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!

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!

Δ 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!

For all the
Saints
who from their
labors rest

Karen Stuhlman
November 7, 2025

Eliana Holland
May 8, 2026

Elmer Mohr
January 15, 2026

Thomas Hoelscher
May 24, 2026

Mabel Henderson
February 7, 2026

Harriet Schmidt
July 9, 2026

Norman Sauer
March 20, 2026

Gwen Gerity
July 27, 2026

Chuck Campbell
April 9, 2026

Edward Knerschield
September 13, 2026

William McCubbin
April 11, 2026

Artwin "Art" Ehrhardt
September 23, 2026

All Saints' Day 101

By Pastor Jonathan Krenz

This article originally appeared in the June/July, 2017 issue of The Lutheran Witness.

My dad died when I was a 24-year-old seminary student. Life was just beginning for me or so it seemed. I had just met the woman I would marry, was on the cusp of vicarage and had call day in sight. Then came the 4 a.m. phone call and the sad flight home to bury the man who gave me life and taught me how to live, the man who brought me to the baptismal font as a newborn and taught me about Jesus.

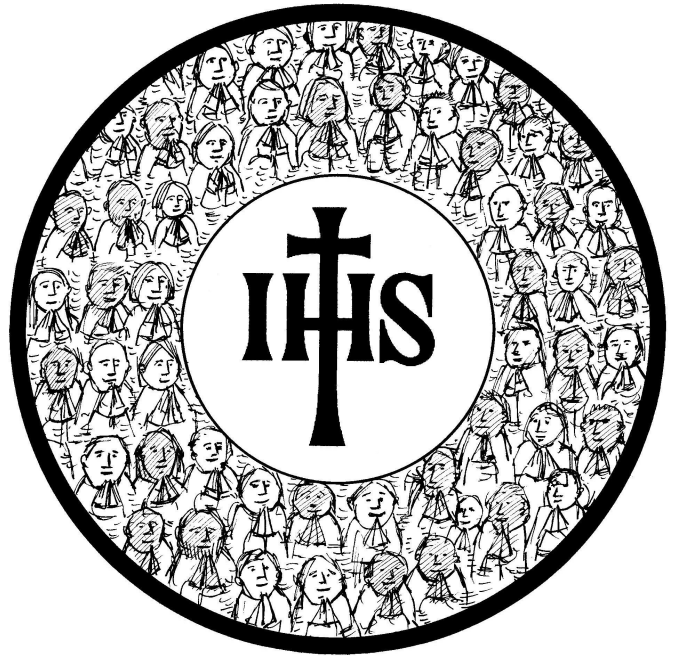
The funeral was a tremendous confession of faith. The pastor proclaimed Christ crucified and the resurrection of the dead. His body will rise. We will see Dad again, with our own eyes, standing and singing before the throne. And in the meantime, he still joins us here, at the altar, “with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.” The Scriptures, the liturgy, the hymns — they all hit on this theme: Christ is risen. He will raise Dad. He will raise you. Shed your tears now, but God will wipe them away on Resurrection Day, when death shall be no more (REV. 21:4).

Remembering the saints

All Saints' Day, like the Christian funeral, is given to confess the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. It is a day of comfort for those who “feebly struggle” here while their loved ones “in glory shine” (LSB 677:4). We miss those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, but we know that, though they have died, yet they live, and they are with Jesus: “Now safely home in endless day” (LSB 676:3). They are in heaven.

But that isn't the whole story. Jesus will raise their bodies from the grave on the Last Day.

Body and soul will be reunited to live with God in ceaseless joy in a new heavens and a new earth. On All Saints' Day, the Scriptures, the liturgy, the hymns and the preaching all hit on this theme. It is the yearly feast commemorating all who have died in Christ and now rest from their labors. It



reminds us that the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, will raise them from the dead.

He will raise you as well. That is the other theme of All Saints' Day. Unless the Lord returns first, you will physically die. This is the common experience of all children of Adam. The wages of sin is death (ROM. 6:23). All sinners must die. But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ. This gift is for you, just as it is for your loved ones who have gone before. Jesus died for you to take your sins away. He died your death. Now death cannot have you. You belong to Jesus, who is risen from the dead. In Baptism, He gives you His life. All Saints' Day is a little preview of your funeral. Your body will rise!

We are with them

In the meantime, the Church in heaven and the Church on earth is one holy Christian Church. We gather around one Lord, Jesus Christ, who breathes into us, on both sides of death's veil, the very breath of life — His Word and Spirit — and feeds us His risen and living body and blood. The early Christians confessed this reality by worshiping in the catacombs (underground cemeteries). Christians today sometimes build cemeteries in the churchyard. The dead are not gone from us. They are still members of the Church. We are with them when we gather around the altar. We are with them when we are where Jesus is, giving His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Very early in the history of the Christian Church, in the wake of persecution and martyrdom, various feasts were established here and there commemorating all the saints who are with Christ, those known and those unknown. By the eighth century, November 1 was established in the West as the annual observance of the Feast of All Saints. Here we see the wisdom of the ancient Church Fathers. Our common enemy is death. On All Saints', we mock death and spit in his eye. Christ is risen. We will rise. The risen Christ stops death in its tracks. Our loved ones will be given back to us — alive, healed and whole. That means my dad. That means your loved ones who are with the Lord and all the saints now safely home in endless day. That means you. We long for that day. Come, Lord Jesus.