Ante Communion Service for November 1, 2020 All Saints Day

Hymn For All the Saints Concordia

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

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might; you, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; you, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may your 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!

O blest communion, fellowship divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in you, for all are yours. Alleluia!

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!

The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful warrior coms their rest; sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day; the saints triumphant rise in bright array; the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia!

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! Amen.

Celebrant Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

Celebrant 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. Amen.

A moment of silence for self-reflection

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

People Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that 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 are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

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

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.

People And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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. Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, and blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might, be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Celebrant Let us pray: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Revelation 7:9-17 First Reading

After this I, John, 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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And 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, singing, "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, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I 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. "For 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. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-10,22 Benedicam Dominum

I will bless the LORD at all times; *

his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the LORD; *

let the humble hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *

let us exalt his Name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me *

and delivered me out of all my terror.

Look upon him and be radiant, *

and let not your faces be ashamed.

I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *

and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *

and he will deliver them.

Taste and see that the LORD is good; *

happy are they who trust in him!

Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *

for those who fear him lack nothing.

The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *

but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *

and none will be punished who trust in him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

See 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. Beloved, 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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

[&]quot;Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[&]quot;Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[&]quot;Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

[&]quot;Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

[&]quot;Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

[&]quot;Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

[&]quot;Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

[&]quot;Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[&]quot;Blessed are you when people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Sermon

Hymn Abide With Me

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Abide with me, fast falls the eventide, The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour; What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r? Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies; Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Nicene Creed

Said by all.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,

those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the peace and unity of the world;

That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For all who love God and trust in Christ, that divisions may cease;

And that all may be one as you and the Father are one.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick the friendless, and the needy.

For wisdom in this time of pandemic;

That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Silence.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.

Who put their trust in you.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray together for Christ's presence:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.

I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

People: We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: The love we share becomes bread for the world.

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin], Octarium