St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Yet even at the grave we make our song:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

All Saints Day

November 1, 2026 *10:30 Holy Communion*

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, the 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 at that tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

-from *Sundays and Seasons 2026*

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

✞ GATHERING ✞

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Shall We Gather at the River
(For music turn to Hymn 423 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Shall we gather at the river,**
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain **Yes, we'll gather at the river,**
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2. **On the margin of the river,**
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

3. **Ere we reach the shining river,**
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

4. **Soon we'll reach the shining river,**
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Silence for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,
C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Goodness is Stronger than Evil
(For harmonization see Hymn 721 in the Red Hymnal)

Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger that hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
vict'ry is ours,
vict'ry is ours,
through God who loves us.
Vict'ry is ours,
vict'ry is ours,
through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book,* Desmond Tutu, b. 1931, copyright 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd. Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1996 Iona Community, Admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of the Day
A: Let us pray…
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.
C: Amen.

✞ WORD ✞

First Reading Revelation 7:9-17
B: [9]After 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. [10]They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!"
[11]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, [12]singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
[13]Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" [14]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.
[15]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.
[16]They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
[17]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."
After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 34:1-10, 22 *(read responsively)*

D: I will never stop thanking God
with constant words of praise.
C: My soul will boast of God;
the poor will hear me and be glad.
D: Join me in praising the Lord,
together tell of God's name.
C: I asked and the Lord responded,
freed me from all my fears.

D: Turn to God, be bright with joy;
you shall never be let down.
C: I begged and God heard,
took my burdens from me.
D: God's angel defends the faithful,
guards them on every side.
C: Drink in the richness of God,
enjoy the strength of the Lord.
D: Live in awe of God, you saints:
you will want for nothing.
Even if lions go hungry,
those seeking God are fed.
C: God saves those who keep faith;
no trusting soul is doomed.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

E: 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. [2]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. [3]And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Revelation 7:9-17)

C: Alleluia. They are before the throne of God, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12
The gospel is announced:
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.
C: Glory to you O Lord.
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2]Then 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. [12]Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
After the reading:
P: The gospel of the Lord
C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day For All the Saints
(For music turn to Hymn 422 in the Red Hymnal)

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.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

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.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

3. **Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,**
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

4. **And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,**
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

5. **The golden evening brightens in the west;**
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;
…sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

6. **But then their breaks a yet more glorious day;**
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

7. **From earth's wide bounds from oceans farthest coast,**
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
…singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: William How, 1823-1897, Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958, Music copyright, Oxfod Univeristy Press

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

C: 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.

Peace
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.
P: We share that peace with one another.
The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings
You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns will be raised in prayer later in the service.

Offering Prayer
P: Let us pray: God of abundance:
C: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession
P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
Issues raised by the congregation are lifted in prayer.
The prayer concludes:
P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: Amen.

✞ MEAL ✞

Great Thanksgiving
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is our joy that we always give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus the Christ. By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may be comforted by your mercy, and rejoice with you in glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and place; and on this day, most especially with: *(the names are read, followed by the ringing of a bell after each)* we look forward to the day when we may be joined with them again and join in this everlasting hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)
C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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
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.

Invitation to Communion
P: Come to this table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Communion Distribution
Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:
Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)
485 *I Am the Bread of Life (Red Hymnal)*
484 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:
P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer
A: Let us pray:
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this give in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

✞ SENDING ✞

Blessing
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: Amen.

Sending Hymn God the Omnipotent

1. **God the omnipotent! King who ordainest**
great winds thy clarions, lightning thy sword:
show forth thy pity on high where thou reignest;
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

2. **God the all merciful! Earth hath forsaken**
meekness and mercy, and slighted thy Word;
bid not thy wrath in its terrors awaken;
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

3. **God the All-righteous One! We have defied thee,**
yet to eternity standeth thy Word;
falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside the;
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

4. **God the all-wise! By the fire of thy chast'ning**
earth shall to freedom and truth be restored;
through the thick darkness thy kingdom is hast'ning;
thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

Text: Henry R. Chorley, 1808-1872, sts. 1-2; John Ellerton, 1826-1893 sts. 3-4 alt. Music: Alexis F. Lvov, 1799-1870.

Dismissal
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.

All Saints Remembrance

Verne Aldrich	Nancy Fisher	Robert Mincer
Marilyn Bair	Sue Franks	Charlie Plyter
Darrell Brown	Dennis Griffo	Ella Schuller
Audrey Fabris	Claude Krasse	Ron Stromstad
Larry Fisher	Elaine McNamara	

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Altar Care	Linda Flood
Communion Assistant	Janice Lockwood
Counters	Burdie Gillern and Babette Huber
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, November 8

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Greg and Mary Zuege
Coffee Hour	

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