

GREETING: Gathered in Christ. **We serve with grace.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Holy One, **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *“Shall We Gather At the River”*#423

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.

FIRST READING: REVELATION 7:9-17

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. 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

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.**

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

**O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

**The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

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.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 5:1-12

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. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 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. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON “*Great, in Heaveh! What Blessed is Really About*” Ro Fesser

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS WHO FORMED AND SHAPED US IN OUR LIVES
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows that which we have received from God, Himself.

PSALM 121: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep. Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep; the Lord watches over you; the lord is your shade at your tight hand; the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life. The lord will watch over your going out and your coming in from this time forth forevermore.

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 49... Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you, says the Lord. See I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

A reading from First Thessalonians, chapter 4... We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

A reading from Hebrews, chapter 12.... Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let us pray:

P: O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come: We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your world throughout the centuries into our time and place. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

P: Family members or church family will now light a candle of remembrance for the saints named specifically. A final candle will be lit for all the saints now living in our hearts, minds, and spirits not specifically named....

P: As we remember all these people, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more. To you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever, **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "*For All the Saints*".....#422

APOSTLES CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.* Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions, show us unity in your presence, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of the ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and we ask safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy comforter, we pray for this congregation, that the promise of your new life may be shared and experienced. We pray for our congregation's Sunshine ministry team and our outreach at end-of-life, that families and friends seeking your love find it here. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks. We remember their witness of faithfulness and love. We lift up Kathy Stitt and Kari Linker who joined you in eternity with all the saints during this past year. Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places to give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join your unending hymn:

HYMN: “*Holy, Holy, Holy*” Setting 4, #153

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. Remembering his death, Celebrating his resurrection, Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. You are Bread: feed us with yourself. You are wine: warm our hearts and make us one. God, you are Fire: transform us with hope. God most majestic, God our strength and our song, You show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “*Lamb of God*” Setting 4, #154

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG “*Oh. When the Saints Go Marching*”Bulletin Insert

SONG OF PEACE

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**