

BERGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 7, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
we come to be your people, O God.

Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
we come to be your people, O God.

Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
we come to be your people, O God.

Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
we come to be your people, O God.

May we truly become your people today.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Have mercy, O God,

against you, you alone, we have sinned.

In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.

Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake and remembers them no more.

Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

Amen.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One of days and nights,
of sinners and saints, of right and left
and everything between and beyond,
We are grateful for all Your presence
that abides in every corner of our living.

You lurk quietly in the loneliest places in our hearts,
keeping watch. You grieve with us in our devastations,
our losses, our fears.

You journey with us in our celebrations, our defeats,
and even in the monotony of our days.

You delight in us, and love us.

May we live in that love and delight,
knowing that as we sink into You
we might become more like You,
wanting life and grace for this world
and all peoples and creatures that live upon it.

We pray for this world, for the places and precious
people who are striving to recover from hurricanes
and floods and raging fires.

We pray for peace among nations,
and make us instruments of that peace.

We pray for our children and our youth
that they may be surrounded by protection,
and also be challenged
to be all of who they have been created to be.

We give you thanks,
for all of the saints in our lives,
those who are living and those of blessed memory.

We pray this prayer for Love's sake, **Amen.**

(Credits: Written by Bruce Prewer)

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.

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

Alleluia. (*Rev. 7:15*)

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 11:32-44

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

³²When 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." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² 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.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ 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.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand for our confession of faith.

CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our hope 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.

Please share the peace with a wave to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

We gather today in the name of our compassionate Savior, to give thanks for women like the biblical Dorcas who use their willing hands to give comfort and life's necessities to those in need.

We thank You, Father, for Dorcas of old and the women who follow in her footsteps, using their talents with needles and thread.

To You, merciful Lord, we give thanks for all the faithful women who, alone in their homes or in small groups, cut and sew together the colorful scraps of fabric to form tops of spectacular patterns and hues.

Lord, we ask Your blessings for these women as they create their labors of love.

Lord, Source of all Comfort, we express our gratitude for the caring women who gather in members' homes and in church basements and fellowship halls to quilt, tie, and bind the "comforters."

We thank You for the quilters and ask You to bind our hearts in love for the people these quilts will comfort in times of stress.

Father, we now dedicate this rainbow of quilts to the glory of God and ask that You shower blessings upon the people of many colors who will use them for warmth, for shelter, for luggage, and for sustaining life.

Lord, teach us, also, to use our talents to reach out to the world's downtrodden people as these quilters have learned to do.

Jesus, we ask that You continue to bless the work of the quilters here at Bergen Lutheran Church.

Bless their work, O Lord, and may it draw people to You.

For to You, O Lord, is the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

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 always right and good to praise God,
who created us and never stops loving us.
God has such great love for us
that we can call ourselves the children of God,
and indeed, that is what we are:
we are God's children.

Thanks be to God.

God sent Jesus to share our life and journey with us,
to show us how to live as God wants.
Through reading the Bible, prayer,
acts of justice and kindness, and this holy meal,
we seek to be more like Jesus each day.
We are followers of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

With words and actions
Jesus taught us that the ways of God
are sometimes different from the ways of the world.
We are called to love God
with our hearts, souls, and minds,
and our neighbors as ourselves.
When we do these things, we are holy, we are saints.

Thanks be to God.

We give thanks for the many people
who have gone before us,
and are with us even now:
a great cloud of witnesses who have tried
to live God's love every day,
and with their lives, have shown us
how to be followers of Jesus.

Joyce Pederson
Lona Van Deelen
Betty Peterson
Neil Anderson
Dorothea Heimark

We are part of the communion of saints.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus invited saints and sinners to dine with him and be his friends. And Jesus invites us to this sacred meal, in which we can taste and see, experience and remember the goodness of our God.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

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

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go from this place to continue the work of making our world new with the Spirit of Christ. Where there is hurt, and tears are falling, we will be God's comfort. Where there is anger, and violence reigns supreme, we will be God's peace. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Where there is neglect, and loneliness abides, we will be God's love. Go as saints of this generation who are the love of God, ✝ the incarnation of Christ, and the friendship of the Spirit. **Amen.**

CHIMES OF BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

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