

Sunday, November 1, 2020 — All Saints Day

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Even as we return to worship at 8, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m., you are welcome to join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for All Saints Day from Centennial Hall on Sunday, November 1 at 9:15 a.m. If you are unable to join us at that time, be welcome to access the service at your convenience via Trinity's YouTube channel. Instructions for access to the live stream and the recorded video are below.

Trinity is live streaming worship — how do I find it?

We are streaming our 9:15 a.m. "Virtual Worship" service on YouTube. To find it, do the following:

- Follow the home page link to "Virtual Worship" on Trinity's website, select "video" and you will be connected to the stream.
- OR
- Go to YouTube, either by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage on your computer.
 - Search for 'Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.' The first option should be one with a picture of our cross tower (that is our channel).
 - When you click on it you will be brought to our channel. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday morning) there will be a video with 'Live Now' on it.
 - Simply click on the video and you will be connected to the stream.
 - We also save past services in a play list called 'Rejoice Worship,' so you can view a past worship service at any time. It takes a couple of hours for the video to download on YouTube after worship ends.

If you have a YouTube account please subscribe to the channel. This will allow our videos to show up in your video feed and when we reach enough subscriptions allow us to change our YouTube url.

Prayer of the Day for All Saints Sunday

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.

Prayer for our Nation

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of division and decision, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for Trinity members Fran Anderson, Dan Babin, George Bauer, Krysta Billock, Sherry Blair and family, Loretta Blied, Bonnie Brandstadt and family, Pat Bruin, Captain Karl Crist, Jack Danielson, Angela Davis, Riley Day, John Derbin, Awilda Diaz, Lois Engel, Beth Engstrom, Ryleigh Fischer, Joe Fisher, Renee Fisk and family, Mari Franz and family, Mary Frick, Richard Gehl and family, Jack Greiner, Elena Griewahn, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Carol Welz-Gustafson, David, Sue and Daniel Gutierrez, Alexander Hahn, Mark Hahn, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Ruth Helzer, Jerry Hendricks, Bev Heyne and family, Carrie Hoeksema, Callan Hughes, Christopher Humphrey, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Gayl Kessel, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Roy Lamprich, Allison Landon, Logan Landon, Marilyn Leese, Jane Legualt, Bob and Cathy Luders, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Joyce McKenzie, Marcia McClimans and family, Jill McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, Richard Mencarelli, Johnny Mielock, Moglia family, Michael Mulligan, Tim Neilson, Maddie Nojos, Roger Perham, Dan Pollert, Valeriano Ramirez, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Tiago Saline, Marian Schaible, Carolyn Schaner, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Ilene Seadal, Karen Selle, Joan Sellman, Jim Searfoss, Michael Smith, David Smoes, Courtney Steketeer and family, Linda Taffs, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Ted Turnage, Dale Volkerding, Chris and Joanna Waite and family, John Walls, Meghan Walls, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Dave and Kathy Young, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

All Saints Day

November 1, 2020

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 and 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 and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.



FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

⁹After 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. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And 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, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁵For 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.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for 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."

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then 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. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the whole church, bless those who share in our ministry, including Pastor David Doane and the people of Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of all peoples, inspire us to cherish our commonalities with people of other faiths. Bless our three "Standing Together" partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel, Masjid At-Tawheed and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod. Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year, Julia Bauer and Randy Preston, Kathryn Christenson and Diane Tanis, Fran Bolthuis and Mike Franz, Susan Kwast and Anne Hanson, Bill Heyne, Bill McClimans, and Phyllis Gehl. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer for this time of pandemic and social upheaval

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOVEMBER 1, 2020
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



God promises glory and peace forevermore.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The beatitudes
Monday	Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away tears
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-3	Our hope in God
Wednesday	Joshua 3:7-17	Crossing over the Jordan River
Thursday	Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Friday	John 11:17-27	The resurrection and life
Saturday	Psalms 34:1-10, 22	Honor the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“[F]or 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.” **Revelation 7:17 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for joining us to the saints throughout the ages through our shepherd, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food as we taste and see that you are good. Amen. (Psalm 34:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord of glory and honor and power and might bless you now and forever more. (Revelation 7:12)



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NOVEMBER 1, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Behold the Host
Arrayed in White*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about someone who has died and who was a loving gift to you.
- Describe or think about what being a saint means to you.
- What is your vision of heaven and how is that important to your daily life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Revelation 7:9-17.

The seer of this heavenly vision allows us to imagine the future of loved ones who have died, especially those who have shaped our own lives of faith with their living witness. Most likely they did not experience the kind of persecution envisioned in Revelation, but all lives know the pain and turmoil of daily struggles. In the end, what remains of their—and our—sufferings and disappointments are swept up in a larger reality, one that sees the Lamb at the center. This is Christ, our shepherd, who suffered and died and through whose blood our lives are purified that we all may stand before the throne of God. The truth of the reign of God through the Good Shepherd is that all our sorrows will be wiped away. We look to a future where there are no more tears, no more sadness to overcome. Yes, there is a great victory in life, it is the victory of the Lamb who was slain and now begins his reign of “[b]lessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and power and might . . . to our God forever and ever! Amen” (v. 12). How does this text give you comfort for loved ones who have died? How does it bring comfort for your own life?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, we thank you for the promise of life and love and peace for all the saints—past, present, and future—through Christ our shepherd. Amen.**

SERVICE



In the Bible, we learn about the disciples, the first followers of Jesus. They are set apart by God to witness to Christ and are called saints. All Christians are saints. In what ways do you witness to Christ through acts of service to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



All Saints Day is a time to remember all the saints in our lives, both the living and the dead. Take a white, plastic tablecloth, cover the table with it, and write on the tablecloth the names of those who have blessed your life. Place a candle in the center. Light the candle and pray:

Dear God, thank you for the witnesses who have touched my life with faith, love, and hope. I thank you for (read the names) through Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

For All the Saints

We remember Trinity members who have gone before us since All Saints Day, November 1, 2019.

"If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him."

Julia Alice Bauer

January 28, 1949 – December 9, 2019

Randall Raymond Preston

May 10, 1929 – December 21, 2019

Kathryn Elizabeth Christenson

August 24, 1915 – February 14, 2020

Diane Ruth Tanis

December 27, 1946 – April 26, 2020

Francis Edward Bolthuis

July 19, 1931 – May 22, 2020

Michael Gary Franz

February 6, 1943 – September 29, 2020

Susan Lynn Kwast

April 6, 1958 – September 29, 2020

Anne Hanson

January 27, 1926 – October 7, 2020

William Robert Heyne

June 9, 1933 – October 9, 2020

William Grant McClimans

September 27, 1924 – October 13, 2020

Phyllis Jean Gehl

June 24, 1945 – October 29, 2020

The Newly Baptized

**Giving Thanks for Our Newest Brothers and Sisters in Christ;
Those Baptized Since All Saints Day 2019**

Isabella Jean Abbate

November 17, 2019

Fiona Rose Pardy

December 8, 2019

Lilah Emerson King

December 29, 2019

Acadia Elise Platt

January 26, 2020

Brienne Iris Olimpo

February 23, 2020

Alison Abigail Wittenmyer

June 28, 2020

Maya Jane Rubenstahl

July 26, 2020

Thea Ruth Taylor

August 2, 2020

Helena Ann Hughes

August 30, 2020

Abigail Ann Severns

October 4, 2020

Mila Marie Perez

October 18, 2020

Silas William Perez

October 18, 2020