



***“God’s Greater Story:
People with a Purpose”***
Sunday, November 1, 2020 9:00AM
Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

As we continue our series today, “God’s Greater Story”, based upon a portion of Paul’s letter to the Church at Rome, Paul reminds us that God has called us to be part of His people for His purpose, His purpose of reaching out to the ends of the earth with Christ’s saving love.

OPENING HYMN

“For All the Saints”

LSB 677

- 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.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 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.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 Oh, may Thy 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!
- 4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 5 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!
- 6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- △ 8 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!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WELCOME

P Today we are celebrating All Saints' Day, on which we give thanks "for all the saints who from their labors rest," those who have gone before us in faith. By definition, a saint is anyone looked on as holy by God, and we who have faith in Christ here on earth are already declared by God to be His saints. Indeed, He calls us His children. Knowing the eternal "end of the story" gives us hope in our daily walk through life. That hope is summarized in today's short Epistle.

EPISTLE

1 John 3:1–3

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Confident of salvation, let us confess our sins to our loving, heavenly Father.

C **We confess that we have not lived as Your children, Father in heaven. In our thinking, speaking, and acting, we have not demonstrated to the people around us the kind of love You have shown us. Forgive us for these our sins. Open our eyes of faith that we may anticipate seeing You in the eternity that awaits us. Then move us toward purity of living that will give You the glory each day until You return.**

P Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we are God's children now because of the hope God has poured into us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN of PRAISE

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

LSB 686 sts. 1 & 4

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For heaven-sent peace and the hope of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ, have mercy.

P For global peace and the Church's growth in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who here return thanks to God for the hope within them, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ, have mercy, now and forever. Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical Body of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You;

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1–12

P A reading from St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN of the DAY

“Blest Are They”

AGPS 74

1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
 Theirs is the kingdom of God.
 Blest are they, full of sorrow;
 They shall be consoled. Refrain

ref Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessèd are you, holy are you.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

2 Blest are they, the lowly ones;
 They shall inherit the earth.
 Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
 They shall have their fill. Refrain

3 Blest are they who show mercy;
 Mercy shall be theirs.
 Blest are they, the pure of heart;
 They shall see God! Refrain

4 Blest are they who seek peace;
 They are the children of God.
 Blest are they who suffer in faith;
 The glory of God is theirs. Refrain

5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
 All because of Me.
 Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
 Shine for all to see. Refrain

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SERMON

“God’s Greater Story: People with a Purpose”

Romans 10:5-17

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For ourselves and all who with hope are realizing new beginnings—with new schools to attend, new loves to celebrate, new job opportunities to explore, and new positions in government to assume—that our Lord Jesus would give them joy in their endeavors, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For ourselves and all those who are eagerly returning to their daily circumstances—raising crops and tending herds, transporting goods and offering services, designing products and expanding understanding, defending borders and securing justice, teaching and learning—that the Holy Spirit would give them strength and guidance to serve their neighbors in love and to do God’s will, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For ourselves and all who in kindness care for one another—offering hospitality to the homeless, healing to the sick, counsel to the sorrowful, and support for the forgotten—that God would increase their love to

provide home, health, consolation, and community; and for those near and dear to us who call to Him in hopeful prayer, [*including . . .*], that our gracious Lord would meet their needs of body, soul, and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For ourselves and all who find they need gentle relief—vacations from demanding agendas and constructive criticism, retirement from career goals and job expectations, and personal time to listen to God’s gracious Word and to be aware of His constant presence—that our heavenly Father would grant them peace and renew their hope until faith gives way to sight, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have not left us without hope, for You promised a Redeemer, who by His obedient death and victorious resurrection crushed Satan underfoot and opened to us the door of everlasting life. With repentant joy we receive the salvation He won for us on the cross.

Gathered now at His bidding, we pray that You would grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood, and thereby to receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in this Sacrament. Strengthen us to live in hope each day until we join saints and angels around Your throne in eternity. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTUION HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

- 1 Children of the heav’nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e’er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

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DISTRIBUTUION HYMN

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

LSB 575

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. Refrain
- ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain
- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;

When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain

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Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace, comfort and joy in this Sacrament,

C and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“We Sing for All the Unsung Saints”

LSB 678

- 1 We sing for all the unsung saints,
That countless, nameless throng,
Who kept the faith and passed it on
With hope steadfast and strong
Through all the daily griefs and joys
No chronicles record,
Forgetful of their lack of fame,
But mindful of their Lord.
- 2 Though uninscribed with date or place,
With title, rank, or name,
As living stones their stories join
To form a hallowed frame
Around the myst'ry in their midst:
The Lamb once sacrificed,
The Love that wrested life from death,
The wounded, risen Christ.

3 So we take heart from unknown saints
 Bereft of earthly fame,
 Those faithful ones who have received
 A more enduring name:
 For they reveal true blessing comes
 When we our pride efface
 And offer back our lives to be
 The vessels of God's grace.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

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