

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
All Saints Sunday - November 7, 2021

“Blessed are the...” (Matthew 5:1-11)

Have you ever thought, “What is the real world?” Have you asked, like the little boy in a YouTube video when, fresh from a dentist visit and still feeling the effects of anesthesia asks, “Is this real life?” Some say the Christian life is “not real.” The Christian way of life doesn’t match up with the way the world “is.” Others say, “That Jesus stuff is okay, but sometimes you have to be real.”

What is “real”? The Sermon on the Mount is quite “unreal.” Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are those who are persecuted. Blessed are you when others revile you. Wait....what?

These things make it sound like we should be door mats for the world because we know the “real world.” In the real world, when we mourn, we don’t always get comforted. We try to make peace, but get hit in the process. When we get wronged, we get revenge or get a lawyer. The meek are taken advantage of.

In this world of tribulation, the best we can hope for is to learn how to cope with grief. But Jesus promises laughter to those who mourn, blessedness to those who are victims, triumph to those who do not repay evil for evil. How can that be? Because Jesus ushered in a new world. God was making a fundamental shift in reality.

Some people think that the purpose of the Christian faith is to get our ticket punched for heaven, our passport into eternal life. And it is true that when Jesus begins this sermon, he speaks in the future tense. The whole new world that he describes is not yet here, in reality, but it is in faith.

Yet in the sermon, Jesus switches from the future tense to the present tense. Maybe these beatitudes are descriptive and not prescriptive, but he still tells us that a new world is coming, and it is here, now. We are in that new world every time we forgive or do not return evil for evil. That’s when a little piece of the new reality becomes visible in you.

“What sort of world do we have? Who is in charge? What is real?” Every time you hear a preacher, the whole world shifts on its axis, because of that day 2000 years ago when God changed reality and made a new world. Amen.

St. Matthew 5:12

All Saints’ Sunday



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

November 7, 2021

Holy Communion 11:00 am

Please come forward to light a candle in memory of your loved ones.

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *For All the Saints* (ELW) No. 422

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *This is the Feast* (ELW) No. 140

All Saints Day 2021

Jim Burbank (Michelle Burbank's dad)

Rod Dondorf (retired pastor)

Joe Mecca (retired state trooper)

Robert Minor (US Army Korea)

John Rush (US Navy WW2 vet)

Gertude (Gertie) Campagna-Sten

David Peterson (US Navy)

Heather Hoffman (niece of Linda Coleman)

Ed Kavanaugh (Linneah's Dad)

Jennifer Dobscha (Kris B's nurse's family member)

Ray Jennings

Kathryn Rush

The Rev. Richard Conrad (Anglican Priest in Sedgewick Alberta, Canada)

Father George Livanos (Greek Orthodox Church in Canonsburg)

Rev. Dr. Roger Raymond Fischer of FLC (US Airforce)

Sandra Lee Crawford- Martin of FLC

John (Junior) Reck – US Army

Byron Evans Schrader Jr. – US Navy

Mary Kay McDonald

William "Bill" Miller – US Army (brother of Soni)

Patricia Zablotny (Stacy's Mom)

Joyce Streator

William Gustav Shadel

Bob Fritz -US Army

Jim Wheeler - SSVFD-44

Dallas McCune

Nancy Marker

Gerald Marker US Airforce

John Serbak US Navy

Tilley Shawin

Charles Armstrong

Fred M Gashel

Steven Blake Lindvig

Gene Vittone

Thankoffering Sunday is November 21st. The women of the church ask all of you to join them in giving thanks November 21st. Please bring food donations as usual. Our speaker will be Christy Pittman from Life Choices Program. You may mark an envelope "Thankoffering" or by putting a loose offering in the plate. Loose offering that Sunday will be used for Thank offering. Thank you!

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Church Offering Change: In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, You have knit together Your people in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son, Christ, our Lord. Grant us grace to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys which You have prepared for those who love You; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem

When We Gather at the Table

Adult Choir

First Reading

Revelation 7:[2-8] 9-17

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 149

¹Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing His praise in the congregation of the faithful.

²**Let Israel rejoice in His Maker;**

let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

³Let them praise His name in the dance;

let them sing praise to Him with timbrel and harp.

⁴**For the Lord takes pleasure in His people and adorns the poor with victory.**

⁵Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

⁶**Let the praises of God be in their throat**

and a two edged sword in their hand;

⁷To wreak vengeance on the nations

and punishment on the peoples;

⁸**To bind their kings in chains**

and their nobles with links of iron;

⁹To inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all His faithful people. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

The Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Shall We Gather at the River

(ELW) No. 423

**The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Dartball on Tuesday, Nov. 9, Washington Alliance here.

Bell Choir Practice on Monday at 7 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2021 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2021. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2021. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia. Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Betty Johnson, Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Byron Christian, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, Sandy Hebrank, Lynn Hudak, Allan Zimmerman, the Pollana family, Ashley McCartney, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, Bob Cable, baby Ryan David Mayer, Danielle Pinkerton, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Stephanie Kennedy, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Ruby Rogers, Becky, Mel & Klaus Behrens, Jim Lacko, Joanne Reck, Barbara, Michael Selarud, Jackie, Jeff Ulanich, Carolyn Wright, and Bill Stewart.

First Lutheran Church

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Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist : Kristina Schuerle

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in honor of Mark and Jennifer Black on their 30th wedding anniversary and in loving memory of my father, Bernard Killen. A donation is made to the Boiler Fund by Kathleen Black.

The Lay Reader is Sonie Rea.

Acolytes are The Berry's.

Counters and Greeters today are S. Berry and L. Sten.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

Semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held today following Worship Service.

Please join us following Congregational Meeting today for Coffee Hour.

*The Prayers of the Church and The Prayers of the Saints (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (ELW) No. 188

*The Great Thanksgiving (ELW) page 144

*The 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.

Lamb of God (ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* (ELW) No. 494

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!* (ELW) No. 619

*The Dismissal (*response*)

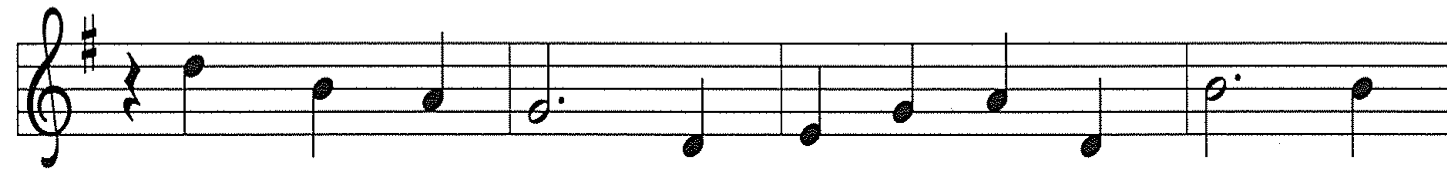
C: Thanks be to God.

*FLC Sending Hymn *Be The Love of Christ* arr. Michael Showalter

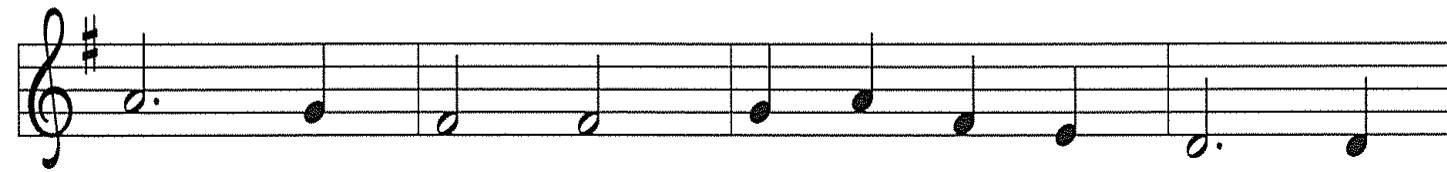
Roger Thornhill

Postlude

For All the Saints



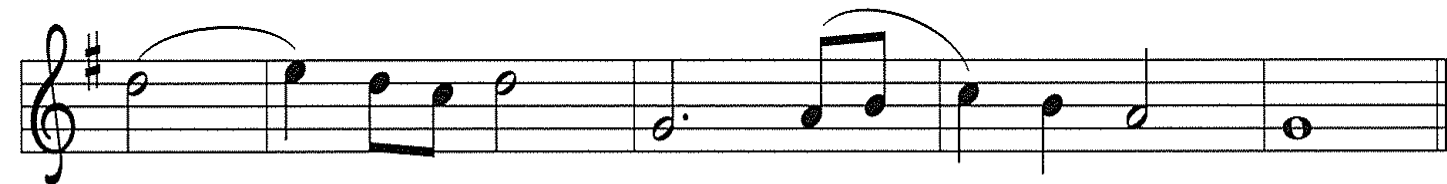
1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.
 6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the
 7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
 Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; ...
 saints triumphant rise in bright array; the
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host, ...



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
 King of glory passes on his way.
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:



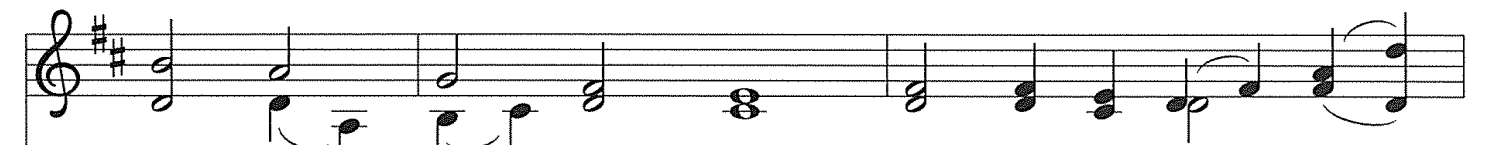
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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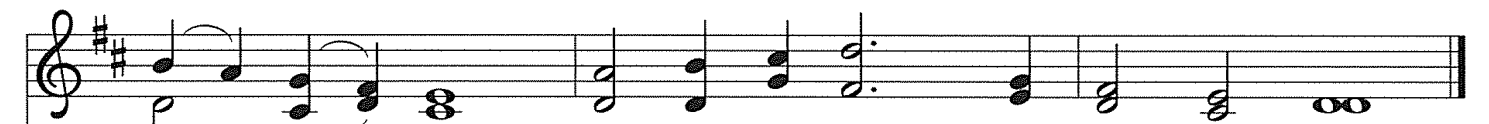
I Know That My Redeemer Lives!



1 I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort
 2 He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives e -
 3 He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to
 4 He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sentence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ever - living head!
 throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.
 troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.



5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.	7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!	8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

For the Bread Which You Have Broken 494

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat - ed at the heav'n - ly board,
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord,
 may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord,
 in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

For All the Saints

3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain and arms are strong.
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

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

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



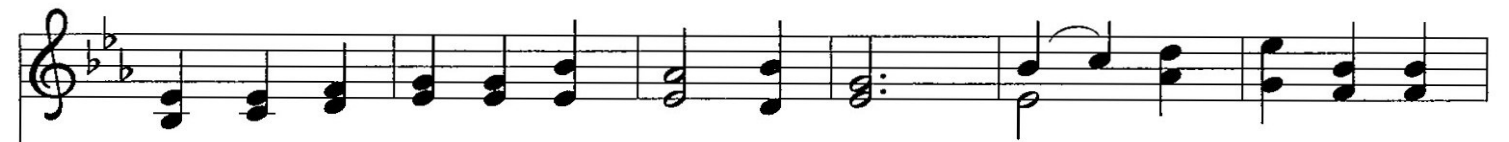
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



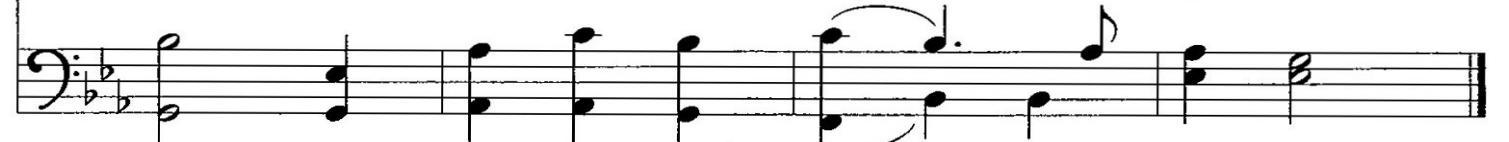
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.