

# Service of Holy Communion

November 7, 2021 All Saints Sunday

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

One Voice

*“Scars in Heaven”* Matthew West & Mark Hall

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. 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.**

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

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

### *Refrain*

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

## 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## THE WORD

### FIRST READING: *Isaiah 25:6-9*

*Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.*

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM READING: *Psalms 24*

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,  
 the world and those who dwell therein.

**<sup>2</sup>For the LORD has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.**

**<sup>3</sup>Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD,  
and who may stand in God's holy place?**

**<sup>4</sup>Those of innocent hands and purity of heart, who do not swear on  
God's being, nor do they pledge by what is false.**

**<sup>5</sup>They shall receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.**

**<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD,  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

**<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

**<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD,  
mighty in battle!**

**<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

**<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory? Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of  
glory.**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a**

*Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.*

**<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6a</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."**

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*“Sing Alleluia”*

Sing Alleluia to the Lord. Sing Alleluia to the Lord.

Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia to the Lord. (*repeat*)

## **GOSPEL READING: John 11:32-44**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

It's a wonder Jesus didn't grab his head and scream. Lazarus was dead. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were his close friends. He'd spent many evenings around their supper table, eating, relaxing and

talking. He'd stayed at their home whenever he was in the area. Lazarus might have been more like a brother to him than a friend.

Of course, Jesus knew what would happen, that Lazarus would not stay dead, but still... as he approached the house, first Martha ran to him, crying and saying - a bit reproachfully -- if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Then Mary came, weeping and saying the same thing. The text says Jesus was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved, and that he began to weep. But is that enough? Why didn't he fall to his knees and scream in anger, in sorrow, in pain?

At times, that seems like the only appropriate response. When the baby you've been waiting for, for nine months, is finally born, but there's something wrong and he only lives a day or two.

When your mother, who's in great shape, gets a cold she can't shake, is later diagnosed with a very treatable form of cancer, but dies a few months later to everyone's shock.

Or when your spouse, who is old and has all kinds of ailments so that you know one of these days he's going to die, but still, when he does, you find you can hardly breathe. Dropping to your knees, grabbing your head, and screaming seems like the only viable response, even though most of us never do that.

Over the last couple of years, I've imagined myself falling down and screaming at the weight and the awfulness of everything. Sometimes I **do** scream -- in a whisper, or into my pillow at night. I don't want to frighten anyone, or have to explain why I'm screaming. It's not just one thing, it's the built up frustration of it all - the deaths and the threat of COVID and the bickering and the politics and the not-knowing when this will end. If I were Jesus and had arrived at my dead friend's house to find his siblings and neighbors torn apart with grief, I'd have wanted to clutch my head and scream. You know what I mean?

Barbara Eickman, Martha Volz, Mack Grill, Cliff Stappenbeck, Jack Phillips, Bob Schoonover... these are the members of Shepherd King who have died since last All Saints Sunday. No doubt each of you could add more names to that list -- me, too. Uncle Vern and Aunt Shirley...Cousin Lyle, Enedina Vasquez... neighbors, old classmates... people we knew well, others we knew only slightly. The loss of them hurts, and the accumulated loss grows heavy and hard to bear.

Some of my favorite memories of those who've died take place around a table. It might be a table at a restaurant... like stately Green Pastures in Austin with its white table cloths and formal waiters, where we'd go to celebrate my parent's anniversary; one wing of the old house filled with Frankes. Or a table in someone's home or backyard with friends and family together for a cookout, for conversation and games. Or like last week, tables in the Fellowship Hall where Shepherd King folks gathered to talk and listen and be "church" with one another.

And certainly here, in worship, where each Sunday we gather around a table, the Lord's Table -- although these days we stay in the pews with our individual communion packets. But in our minds we see ourselves at the altar side by side; and whether at the altar or at home or in the pew, we receive the body of Christ in our hands, we drink the cup of his blood, we are forgiven, united, strengthened in faith and love, and blessed to go on our way as redeemed people.

After our loved ones have died, we feel their absence keenly at the table - the breakfast or dinner table when our spouse isn't there, the Thanksgiving or Christmas table when Mom or Dad, brother or sister isn't there, every table and every meal when a child is not there.

This morning there is an extra table up front near the altar, as is our custom on All Saints Sunday. Those of you at home might have built yourselves and ofrenda or home altar. Shepherd King's ofrenda is not as decorative as most are, but it serves its purpose -- welcoming the saints back to home on this holy day.

We have their pictures here, so they'll know we've missed them and that we're waiting for them. The candles shine to light their way as they travel from the other side back to this side. The paper flags are signals, when a breeze makes them blow, we know the spirits of our loved ones have returned. The flowers celebrate their coming, and the food (hopefully some of their favorite items) is here for them, to give them strength. And also because we've longed to sit at table with our friends and family members.

Jesus walked to the mouth of the cave where Lazarus lay, dead, inside. He'd been warned of the stench, which must have been overpowering because Lazarus was four days dead, but he went anyway. Then he shouted into the darkness, "Lazarus, come out!"

And Lazarus, who'd been mummified with bands of cloth, came walking out. "Unbind him and let him go," Jesus said. Lazarus lived again, at Jesus' command.

Today is the day of all the saints, those people we have loved dearly who have died; people we miss. We remember their smile, their laugh, the things they said and did. Some days we still want to call into their room or dial their number on the phone... See their picture on the mantel and say, "Where are you now, anyway?"

They're at table, a long table atop a tall hill where a refreshing breeze gently blows. The table is shaded by trees -- tall, graceful sycamores, giant elms, hardy oaks whose leaves rustle and make shadows dance across the ground. Our loved ones are there with a whole bunch of others, their bodies relaxed, their eyes aglow as they talk and laugh and pass food to one another.

There's tender, juicy meats, vegetables bursting with flavor, all sorts of grains and fruits, and wine aged to perfection, smooth as can be. They all eat until they're satisfied, and then sit until the stars come out, wanting nothing more than to be in that place, under that sky, in God's kingdom.

One day we'll join them at that table, seated with all the saints, partaking in the meal of eternity. But today they join us at this table, for the meal of welcome that pulls you close, the meal of joy that fills you and spills over from you onto the world, the meal that unbinds you and lets you live again. The meal Jesus provides, his body and blood, given and shed for you.

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 427 *"For All Your Saints, O Lord"*

- 1 For all your saints, O Lord,  
who strove in you to live,  
who followed you, obeyed, adored,  
our grateful hymn receive.
  
- 2 For all your saints, O Lord,  
who strove in you to die,  
who counted you their great reward,  
accept our thankful cry.



3 They all in life and death,  
with you, their Lord, in view,  
learned from your Holy Spirit's breath  
to suffer and to do.

4 For this, your name we bless  
and humbly pray anew  
that we like them in holiness  
may live and die in you.

5 To God, the Father, Son,  
and Spirit, ever blest,  
the One in Three, the Three in One,  
be endless praise addressed.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776-1848, alt.

*The assembly stands.*

## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole Church let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away. Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to those who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, or long for healing in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of lovingkindness, we lift to you the prayers of this gathered people...

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

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us: Barbara Eickman, Martha Volz Mack Grill Cliff Stappenbeck Jack Phillips, Robert Schoonover and those we name before you in our hearts... Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

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

## **OFFERING**

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of Jesus at Shepherd King. If you wish to give to Shepherd King, there is a donate button on our website - [www.skicsa.org](http://www.skicsa.org)

## **THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

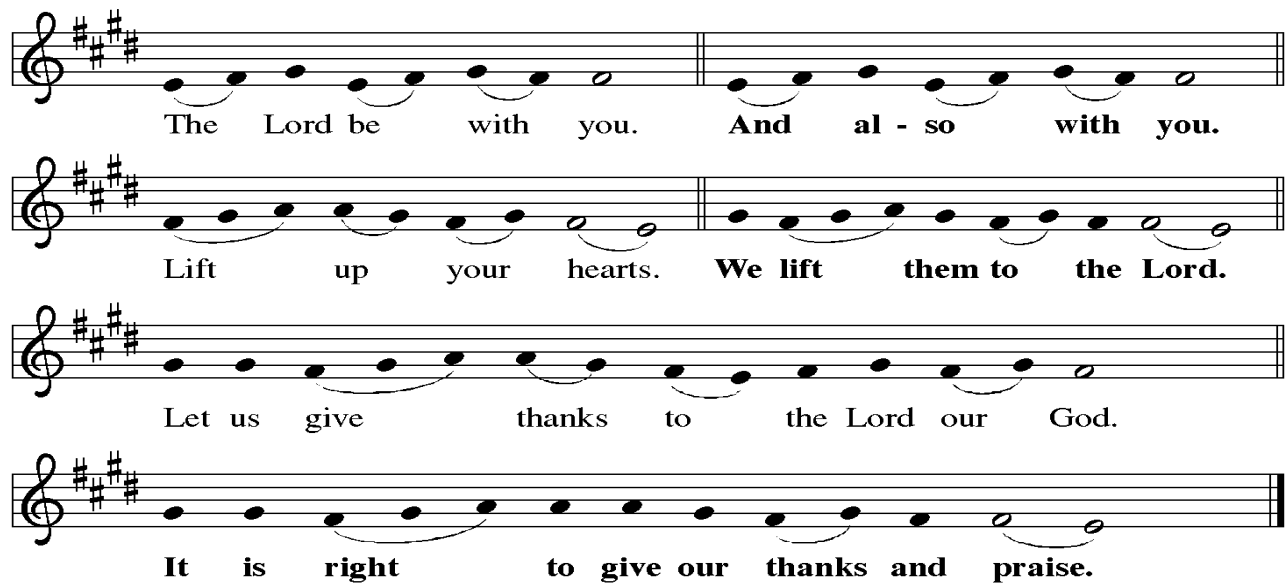
Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

## 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.**

*(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



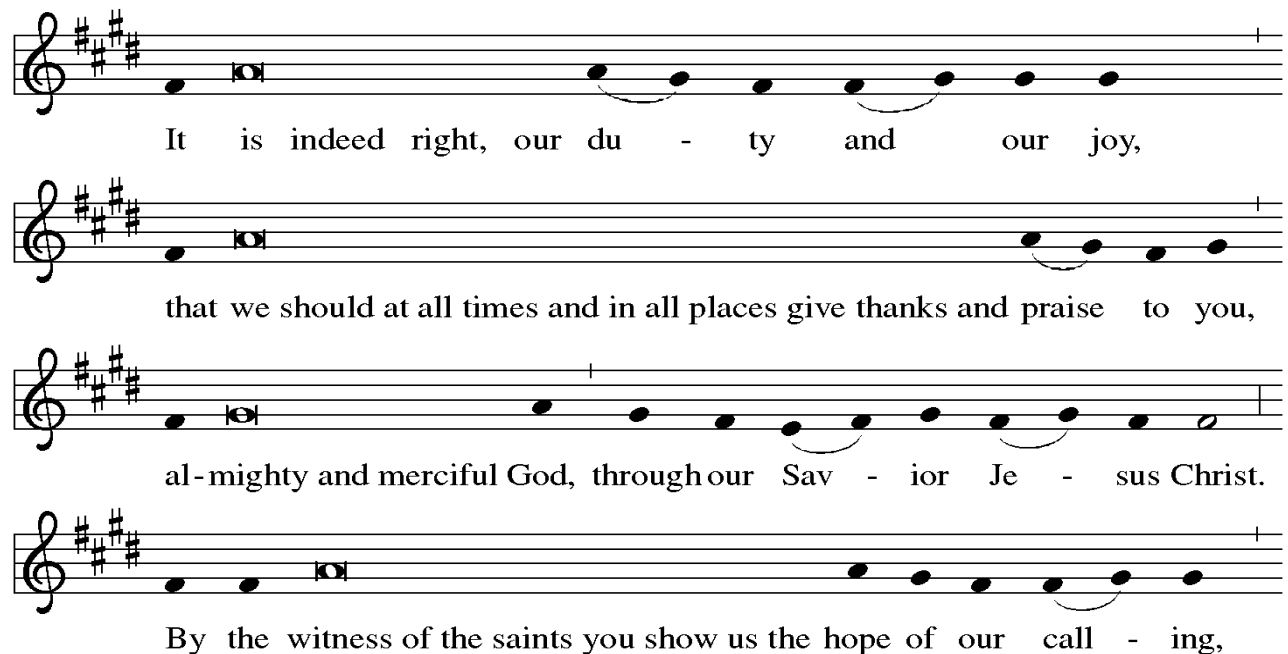
The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

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.

## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our call - ing,

and strengthen us to run the race set be - fore us,  
 that we may delight in your mer-cy, and re - joice with them in glo - ry.  
 And so, with (\_\_\_ and) all the saints,  
 with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heav - en,  
 we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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### *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The LORD is our God, the LORD alone: God who made heaven and earth, who flung the stars across the sky, who raised up Moses to lead Israel from bondage into freedom, who renewed his covenant through prophets and priests, and who in these last days has spoken to us by his Son. Blessed be

God for the Word made flesh. Blessed be God for Jesus who ate with sinners, challenged those in power, welcomed everyone, showed the way of the kingdom, and died and rose again that we might have life. We remember...

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 in remembrance of me.

## **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.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. (*please consume the bread*)

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. (*please drink from the cup*)

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Confirmation Class meets today from 1:00 to 2:30

The Book Group meets on Thursday evening, here at the church in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00, and also on Zoom. We're reading *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, by Henri Nouwen, through Part 1, *The Younger Son*.

Saturday, Worship and Music Ministry Team meets via Zoom at 10:00.

December Newsletter items are due to Courtney tomorrow, November 8.

We're glad so many of you tune in to worship with Shepherd King on Sundays. Please call us at 210-344-5881, if you're in need of prayer, a listening ear, or anything else. We're glad so many of you tune in to worship with Shepherd King on Sundays. Please call us at 210-344-5881, if you're in need of prayer, a listening ear, or anything else.

## **BLESSING**

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✝ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING Hymn**      *"When The Saints Go Marching In"*

Verse 1

O when the saints go marching in  
O when the saints go marching in  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in

Verse 2

O when the invitation comes  
To join the marriage feast on high

O Lord I want to be in that number  
At the wedding feast on high

### Verse 3

O when the Lord in glory comes  
O when the Lord in glory comes  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the Lord in glory comes

### Verse 4

O when the saints go marching in  
O when the saints go marching in  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in

CCLI SONG # 2181022  
JEFFREY RICKARD | KEITH LANDIS  
CCLI LICENSE # 11534117

## **DISMISSAL**

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **Hand Bells**

*“Alleluia Sing Praise”* Henry Purcell/ arrg. by Walter Rodby

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*We ask at the end of the service that you kindly throw away your bulletin, communion cup and any trash you may have in the receptacles provided at the rear of the sanctuary. Your assistance is most appreciated.*

*Prayer concerns this week:*