ALL SAINTS' DAY & COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

November 1, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Welcome to worship at St. Matthew! *To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!*

+ CONNECT +

RINGING OF THE BELL

(Please rise and face the processional cross)

INVOCATION:

P: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING VERSES AND CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

P: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

C: Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.

P: After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

ALL: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

P: We are made saints by the blood of Jesus. We acknowledge, though, that we also remain sinners every moment of our lives. Let us confess our sins with the saints around us and before our forgiving God. *(A moment of silence for personal confession.)*

P: O Holy God,

C: You have called us to love and obey You in all things and to live according to Your commands. We have failed to be obedient, even though You have set us apart to be holy. You have called us to love and serve the world around us, but we have again failed as our thoughts, words, and actions hurt Your people and Your creation. We confess our many sins, and seek Your cleansing forgiveness.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "For All the Saints" –Blue Hymnal #191

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
You, in the darkness drear, Their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may your 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!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one within your great design. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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!
("For All the Saints", tune and setting from The English Hymnal by permission of Oxford University Press, used by permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.
C: Heavenly Father, today our feet are on earth, but our hearts and souls are directed at heaven. Too often the gap between the two is too large for us to manage. Give us the kind of faith, Lord, that brings heaven closer to earth and earth closer to heaven. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Revelation 7:9-17
After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they

who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE LESSON: I John 3:1-3
See what great love the Father has lavished on 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. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL:
L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter five.
C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY: "Blest Are They"
Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

REFRAIN: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

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

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they…shall see God! REFRAIN:

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:

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom: shine for all to see! REFRAIN:
("Blest Are They" by David Haas, copyright 1985 GIA Publications, OneLicense.Net #A-704112.)

MESSAGE: Dr. Samuel Deressa

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

L: On this All Saints' Day, we remember and give thanks and praise to God for the life and for the death of His saints. We rejoice with those who rejoice, and that includes rejoicing with those whose happiness now knows no end in the kingdom of glory. During the past year, families in our congregation and our extended church family have been impacted greatly by the death of ones we love. As those who trust in Jesus Christ, we do not grieve as the rest of the world grieves. We grieve in hope, we pray with confidence, and we live with certainty that those who have died in Christ are secure in His presence. We also rejoice that one day we shall join them in their heavenly joy, which knows no end.

We honor the life and give thanks to God for these His saints:

L: Let us pray.

C: Merciful Father, whose dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, rose victoriously over death and the grave, we remember with thanksgiving Your faithful people who have trusted in Christ, whose tears are gone, and whose sorrows You have turned to joy. We humbly implore You to strengthen us in the confident hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

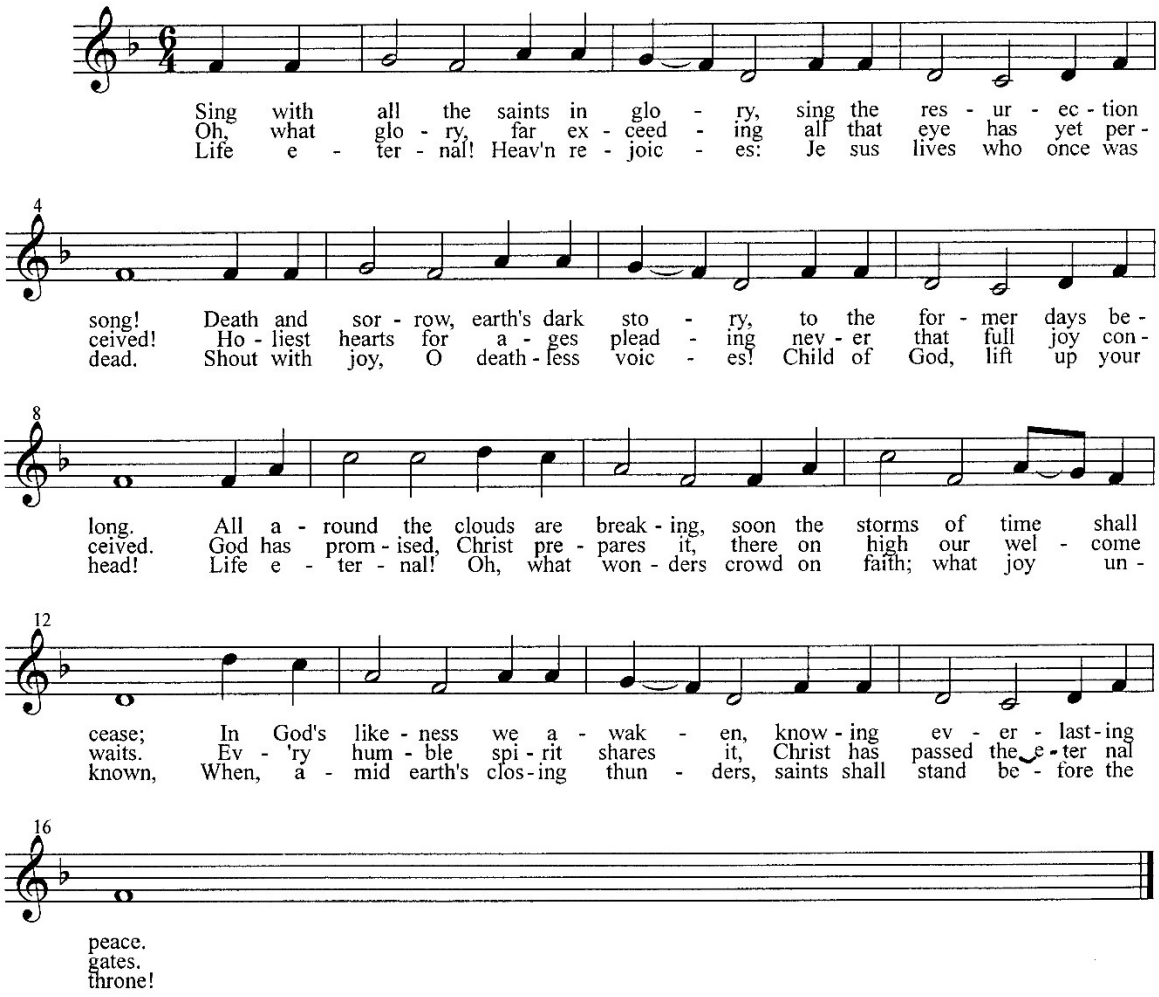
(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Sing With All the Saints in Glory"



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"
Thine the amen, Thine the praise, Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head, Thine the breaking of the bread.
Thine the glory, Thine the story, Thine the harvest, then the cup
Thine the vineyard, then the cup is lifted up, lifted up.

Thine the life eternally, Thine the promise: let there be
Thine the vision, Thine the tree, All the earth on bended knee.
Gone the nailing, gone the railing, Gone the pleading, gone the cry.
Gone the sighing, gone the dying, What was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly, Thine the yes, Thine the table, we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee, Thine the glory yet to be.
Then the ringing and the singing, Then the end of all the war.
Thine the living, Thine the loving evermore, evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize, Thine the wonderful surprise
Thine the banquet, then the praise, Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory, Thine the story, Then the welcome to the feast
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast, at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night, No more dying, only light,
Thine the river, Thine the tree, Then the Lamb eternally.
Then the holy, holy, holy Celebration jubilee.
Thine the splendor, Thine the brightness, only Thee, only Thee.
("Thine the Amen" by Carl F. Schalk, copyright 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, OneLicense.Net #A-704112.)

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:
Lay Minister: Louise Roberts
Usher: Davis Team
Lector: Cheryl Fristad
Acolyte: Patti Kretschman
Power Point: Ben Kretschman
Altar Guild: Ben Kretschman