

Sunday, November 4, 2007  
All Saints Sunday

## INTRODUCTION

*"With all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name and join their unending hymn," proclaims the presiding minister in the great thanksgiving. On the festival of All Saints we remember with thanksgiving those who have lived and died in the faith. They are the sign of our hope and an image of the glory we shall inherit. Even more, they are worshipers with us this day as we sing the praises of the God who brings life out of death.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW)

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.

## READINGS

Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11–23

Luke 6:20–31

## FIRST READING: Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18

*During the second century before the birth of Jesus, the people of Israel suffered severe persecution at the hands of the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes. The book of Daniel was written to support God's people during these dark and difficult days. His vision of the four beasts was meant to remind God's people that history was ultimately controlled by God and that this time of severe trial would pass.*

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: <sup>2</sup>I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, <sup>3</sup>and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. <sup>15</sup>As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. <sup>16</sup>I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: <sup>17</sup>As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever — forever and ever."

## PSALM (ELW): Psalm 149

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD | a new song,

God's praise in the assembly | of the faithful.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel rejoice | in their maker;**

**let the children of Zion be joyful | in their ruler.**

<sup>3</sup>Let them praise their maker's | name with dancing;

let them sing praise with tambou- | rine and harp.

<sup>4</sup>**For the LORD takes pleasure | in the people  
and adorns the | poor with victory.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the faithful re- | joice in triumph;

let them sing for joy | on their beds.

<sup>6</sup>**Let the praises of God be | in their throat**

**and a two-edged sword | in their hand,**

<sup>7</sup>to wreak vengeance | on the nations

and punishment | on the peoples,

<sup>8</sup>**to bind their | kings in chains**

**and their nobles with | links of iron,**

<sup>9</sup>to inflict on them the judg- | ment decreed;

this is glory for all God's faithful people. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:11–23**

*After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, Paul prays that they might also see the power of God, who has now enthroned Jesus as head of the church, which is his body.*

<sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

<sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### **GOSPEL: Luke 6:20–31**

*Luke's recounting of Jesus' blessings and warnings suggest that God's standards and values may be quite different from those with which we are most familiar. They are the hallmark of the new life lived by God's saints.*

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup>But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promises, let us pray for the church, the creation, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Blessed are you, holy God. Your Spirit sustains the church. Fill it with hope and strengthen it to be the body of Christ in the world. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, creator of the universe. Renew the earth, our home, and direct our care for creation, so that it may bless all generations. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, light of the world. Guide the leaders of the nations, especially those to be elected, that their power may be used in humble service. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, healer of our every ill. Console the weary and the sick (*especially*). May the promised presence of Jesus bring peace in the midst of sorrow. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God. As you have given richly to this congregation, may it give abundantly to friends and strangers in need. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Blessed are you, giver of life. We remember today those who have died and now abide forever with you (*those who have died during the past year may be named*). Keep us in communion with all the saints until that day when all rejoice eternally. Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our hope and our redeemer.  
**Amen.**

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## COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Wednesday, November 7, 2007**

**John Christian Frederick Heyer, died 1873; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, died 1719; Ludwig Nommensen, died 1918; missionaries**

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India, Ziegenbalg was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities who favored a different missionary style. He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. Nommensen was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary. Working among the Batak people, he translated the scriptures into their language, and honored their native culture.

**Sunday, November 11**

**Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397**

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

**Sunday, November 11**

**Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855**

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

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