

**AS WE GATHER**

Today we lift our eyes from the present and focus them on the promises of God that will be fulfilled in the future. What a blessed day it will be when we will gather with all of Jesus' holy ones around His throne in heaven! But today is also a blessed day. In Matthew 5, Jesus speaks blessings over a crowd gathered on a mountainside. Place yourself in that crowd today. Hear Jesus bless you also! Listen as He speaks of mercy, purity, and peace. And know this: Jesus does not simply speak of these blessings; He freely gives them to you! How blessed you are—today, tomorrow, and forever!

**Gathering Song                      Come Now is the Time to Worship**

Come, now is the time to worship    Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship    Come, just as you are before your God.    Come.

One day every tongue will confess    You are God    One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those    Who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship    Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship    Come, just as you are before your God.

One day every tongue will confess    You are God    One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those    Who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship    Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship    Come, just as you are before your God  
Come, Come, Come.

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**Welcome & Invocation**

**Opening Song**

**We Believe**

In this time of desperation  
There is only one foundation

when all we know is doubt and fear  
We Believe    We Believe

In this broken generation  
There is only one salvation

When all is dark    You help us see  
We Believe    We Believe

We Believe in God the Father  
We Believe in the Holy Spirit  
We Believe in the crucifixion  
We Believe in His resurrection  
We Believe

We Believe in Jesus Christ  
And He's given us new life  
We Believe that He conquered death  
And He's coming back again

So let our faith be more than anthems  
In our weakness and temptations

Greater than the songs we sing  
We Believe    We Believe

We Believe in God the Father  
We Believe in the Holy Spirit  
We Believe in the crucifixion  
We Believe in His resurrection  
We Believe

We Believe in Jesus Christ  
And He's given us new life  
We Believe that He conquered death  
And He's coming back again

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised  
in the here and now let love invade

Let the church live loud our God will save  
That the gates of hell will not prevail  
Now we know Your love will never fail

We Believe in God the Father  
We Believe in the Holy Spirit  
We Believe in the crucifixion  
We Believe in His resurrection

We Believe We Believe We Believe

We Believe We Believe  
for the power of God has torn the veil  
We Believe We Believe  
We Believe in Jesus Christ  
And He's given us new life  
We Believe that He conquered death  
And He's coming back again

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### **Confession and Forgiveness** *Matthew 5:8*

Pastor: Blessed to be in God's presence, let us confess our sins to Him.

*We take a moment for silent prayers of confession.*

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: Help me, Lord, for I am in great need! My sins are too many to count. My burdens are too heavy to carry. I call out to You for mercy! I ask for Your forgiveness, full and free. As the Father who loves me and sent Jesus to die for me, forgive me of my sins. By Your Holy Spirit, create in me a pure heart that I may worship You in the company of all Your saints. As Your Word has promised, bless me as Your own. Amen.**

Pastor: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." You have been blessed by Jesus with the purity of heart that comes from sins forgiven. Now we see God with eyes of faith; one day, we shall see Him face-to-face. This is all because of His mercy, which He has poured out upon you and all who trust in Him. As your pastor, it is my privilege to announce this grace to you and, as He has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: 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.

**People: 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;**

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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 and are now surrounding the heavenly throne of God. 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" as our first Scripture reading tells us, it gives us hope in our daily walk through life. That hope is summarized as well in today's short Epistle reading.

**Reader**

*Kathy Allen*

**First Reading**

*Revelation 7:2–17*

*(The blessed ones surround the heavenly throne of God.)*

<sup>2</sup>Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

<sup>5</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,  
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,  
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,  
<sup>6</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Asher,  
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,  
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,  
<sup>7</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,  
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,  
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,  
<sup>8</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,  
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,  
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>"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.

<sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading**

*1 John 3:1-3*

*(The blessing of being God's children)*

<sup>1</sup>See 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. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 5:1–12*

*(Jesus speaks blessings over His people.)*

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

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Children's Message / Kid's Church**

#### **Song of the Day I Will Rise**

There's a peace I've come to know  
Though my heart and flesh may fail  
There's an anchor for my soul  
I can say it is well  
Jesus has overcome  
And the grave is overwhelmed  
The victory is won He is risen from the dead

Chorus:  
And I will rise when He calls my name  
No more sorrow no more pain  
I will rise on eagle's wings  
Before my God fall on my knees and rise  
I will rise

There's a day that's drawing near  
When this darkness breaks to light  
And the shadows disappear  
And my faith shall be my eyes  
Jesus has overcome  
And the grave is overwhelmed  
The victory is won He is risen from the dead **(Chorus)**

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**REMEMBRANCE OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Pastor: In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before the Lord our departed family and friends who have gone before us in faith and are now in the presence of Christ.

*[A bell will toll for each departed Bethlehem saint during the past year]*

*[The bell tolls three times in remembrance of the care our loved ones are in with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit]*

Pastor: Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving those who loved and served You in Your Church on earth and who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**Creed – APOSTLE'S 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.**

**Prayers of the Church**

Pastor: As those who have been made saints by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus, let us come before our Father in heaven in prayer. For all the nations of the world, that their leaders see with Your eyes of justice and mercy the needs of their people, and that Your blessed ones represent You among every nation, tribe, people, and language, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Bless us with Your mercy.**

Pastor: For Your Body, the Christian Church on earth, that we see in our service the coming of Your kingdom into our world, and that our love for others reflect the love our Savior has shown to all, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Bless us with Your mercy.**

Pastor: For all the families of our congregation, that in seeing the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, and the grieving, we see You in them, and welcome the opportunity to bless others as You have first blessed us, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Bless us with Your mercy.**

Pastor: For all those who grieve the death of those they love, that their hearts be filled with Your peace and their eyes of faith behold You until the day of our reunion at the throne of the Lamb, when we shall see You face-to-face, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Bless us with Your mercy.**

Pastor: For the sick, *especially those we name at Bethlehem . . .*, that they receive Your blessing through the healing that comes by Your power alone, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Bless us with Your mercy.**

Pastor: Hear us on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

***Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.***

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

## Sharing the Peace

### Offering - Down to the River to Pray

As I went down to the river to pray  
Studying about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord show me the way

Oh sisters let's go down  
Let's go down come on down  
Come on sisters let's go down  
Down to the river to pray

As I went down to the river to pray  
Studying about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord show me the way

Oh brothers let's go down  
Let's go down come on down  
Come on brothers let's go down  
Down to the river to pray

As I went down to the river to pray  
Studying about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord show me the way

Oh sinners let's go down  
Let's go down come on down  
Come on sinners let's go down  
Down to the river to pray

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## Presentation of Gifts

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

**People:** Amen.

## Holy Communion

### Preface

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**The Words of Our Lord** [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

## Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
[1 Cor.11:26]

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [Revelation 22:20]

## Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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.**

## Distribution

### Same Power

I can see the waters raging at my feet  
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me  
I can hear the sound of nations rising up  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

I can walk down this dark and painful road  
I can face ev'ry fear of the unknown  
I can hear all God's children singing out  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave  
The same power that commands the dead to wake  
Lives in us lives in us  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea  
Lives in us lives in us

We have hope that His promises are true  
In His strength there is nothing we can't do  
Yes we know there are greater things in store  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave  
The same power that commands the dead to wake  
Lives in us lives in us  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea  
Lives in us lives in us  
He lives in us lives in us

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## Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

One day when Heaven was filled with His praises,  
One day when sin was as black as could be,

Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,  
Dwelt among men, my example is He  
Word became flesh and the light shined among us, His glory revealed

Living, He loved me, dying, He saved me, buried, He carried my sins far away  
Rising, He justified freely forever, one day He's coming,  
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain,  
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree  
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected, bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He

Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree, and took the nails for me

Living, He loved me, dying, He saved me, buried, He carried my sins far away  
Rising, He justified freely forever, one day He's coming,  
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,  
One day the stone rolled away from the door.  
Then He arose, over death He had conquered,  
Now He's ascended, my Lord evermore.

Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him from rising again.

Living, He loved me, dying, He saved me, buried, He carried my sins far away  
Rising, He justified freely forever, one day He's coming,  
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day oh glorious day.

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming,  
One day the skies with His glories will shine,  
Wonderful day, my Beloved One, bringing, my Savior, Jesus, is mine

Living, He loved me, dying, He saved me, buried, He carried my sins far away  
Rising, He justified freely forever, one day He's coming,  
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.

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### **Open Our Eyes Lord / Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord**

Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him  
Open our ears Lord  
And help us to listen  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus **(Repeat)**

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You, I want to see You **(Repeat)**

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**Benediction** [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: 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.

**People:** Amen.

**Announcements**

**Sending Song The Only Name (Yours Will Be)**

Yours will be the only Name that matters to me  
The only One whose favor I seek  
The only Name that matters to me

Yours will be the friendship and affection I need  
To feel my Father smiling on me  
The only Name that matters to me

**Chorus:** And Yours is the Name the Name that saved me  
Mercy and grace the power that forgave me  
And Your love is all I've ever needed

Yours will be the only Name that matters to me  
The only One Whose favor I seek  
The only Name that matters to me **Chorus**

When I wake up in the land of glory  
With the saints I will tell my story  
There will be one Name that I proclaim **(REPEAT)**

La la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la la  
Jesus Jesus Jesus just that Name  
Jesus Jesus Jesus just that Name

When I wake up in the land of glory  
With the saints I will tell my story  
There will be one Name that I proclaim **(REPEAT)**

La la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la la