

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving Absecon - Galloway Township
Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor
Brian Conover - Music Director

Sunday, November 7th, 2021
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY / 10:00 AM

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come, take your rest this day.

P: Lord, free us from the stresses we have endured this week.

L: Come, put your minds at ease.

P: Lord, ease the burdens and frustrations in our lives.

L: Come! For this is the house of the Lord. It is here that you will find peace.

P: Praise and thanks be to God for giving us sanctuary. **AMEN.**

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*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

*** OPENING SONG**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

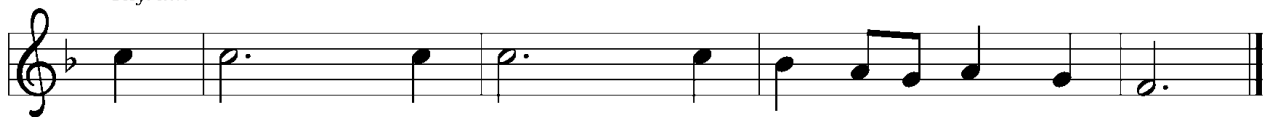


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.
Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

*** GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

Let us pray: 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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9 (*for text of reading, see back of bulletin*)

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 24

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

²**For the LORD has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

³Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's holy place?

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

⁵They shall receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

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

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

⁸**Who is this King of glory?**

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

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

¹⁰**Who is this King of glory?**

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a (*for text of reading, see back of bulletin*)

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

For All the Saints

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Music from *The English Hymnal* outside the USA © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

*** THE WORD OF GOD: John 11:32-44**

A reading from the Gospel of St. John:

(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

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.



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.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

* NICENE CREED

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; 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.

We 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.

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 INTERCESSION**

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 (*especially John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen whom we commemorate today*). 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 all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way (*especially*). 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us (*those who have died during the past year may be named*). 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.

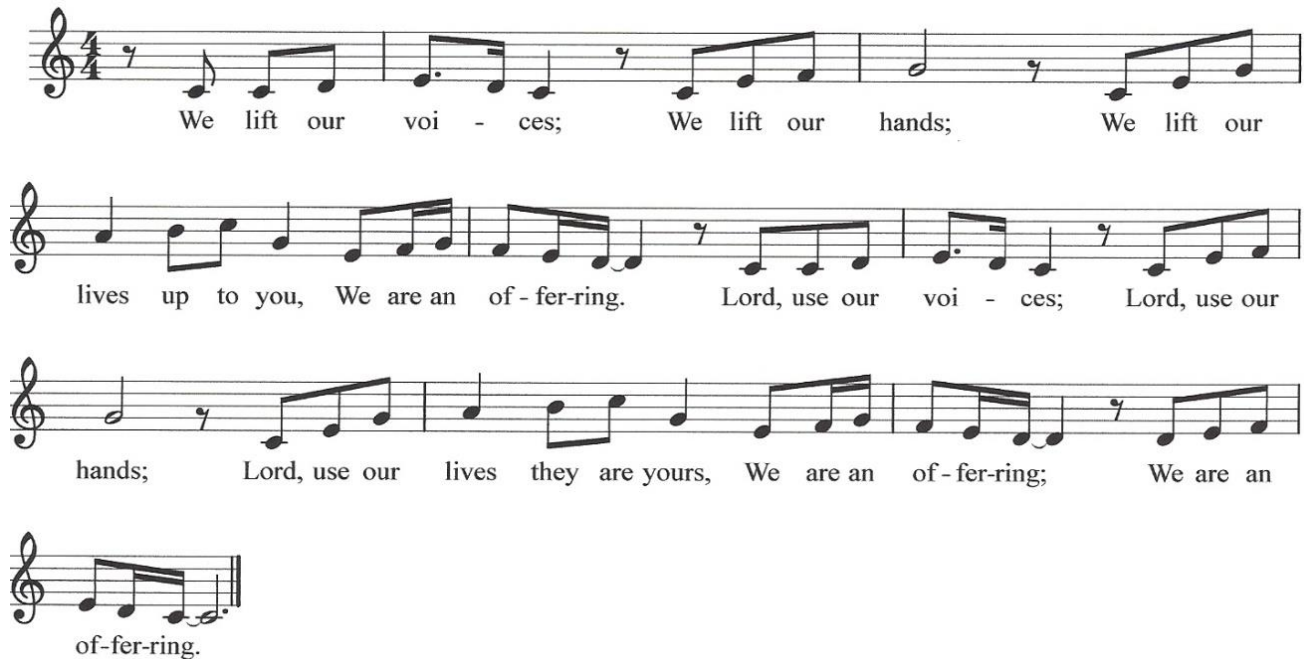
God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

* OFFERING SONG



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an
of-fer-ring.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: 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.**

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Come, eat and be satisfied.
We come.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to share at your pew. Please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packet you were given. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*** POST COMMUNION HYMN**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "3 'Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me." The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: "Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free." The third staff continues the melody and lyrics: "Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you." The fourth staff concludes the melody and lyrics: "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free." The music is written in a simple, clear style suitable for a hymn book.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: 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.**

*** BLESSING**

And now a 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 SONG

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



1 Oh, when the saints go march-ing in, oh, when the
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
 3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the
 4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
 Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
 new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that
 gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
 num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
 num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.
 num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.

5 Oh, when they crown him King of kings,
 oh, when they crown him King of kings,
 O Lord, I want to be in that number
 when they crown him King of kings.

6 And on that hallelujah day,
 and on that hallelujah day,
 O Lord, I want to be in that number
 on that hallelujah day.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

* SENDING

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.