

Messiah Lutheran Church

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THE GREATEST AMONG YOU



WILL BE YOUR SERVANT

M A T T H E W 2 3 : 1 1

November 02, 2008
Proclaiming GRACE
God's Riches At Christ's Expense
Est. January 3, 1956

Welcome in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

**WELCOME WITH JOY AND A FEW SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS
RINGING OF THE BELLS AND SILENT MEDITATION**

+ please stand as you are able for these parts of the service

+ **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

C Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth.

C You are the everlasting wellspring.

P You gather your people from sea to sea.

C You quench our thirst, and you comfort all who weep.

P Your Son stands among us, Shepherd and Lamb, to lead all the saints through death to life.

C Pour out your Holy Spirit.

P May (this) water be a sign of the end of all tears; for we stand under the name above every name, Jesus your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ **GREETING**

P Beloved, remembered by God and remembering both the call and the promises of God: the everlasting love of the Father, the gift of the Son, and the strength of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you. (*Greet one another in the pew around with the unity and peace offered through our Lord Jesus Christ.*)

+ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

LBW, Setting One, p. 60

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

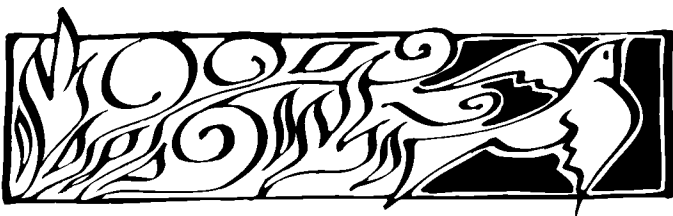
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
Refrain

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **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.**

All
Saints'
Day
November 1



A READING FROM **Revelation 7**

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal ;they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter
them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

L The Word of the Lord C **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNG BY THE CHOIR

+ THE HOLY GOSPEL is announced

P The Gospel according to **Matthew 5**

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

In the beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

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

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

WOV # 764

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 in 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, be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

TODAY'S MESSAGE

"Hang On! Your Reward is Great in Heaven!"

The Greatest Sermon ever, the Sermon on the Mount, gives us a lesson on Jesus' teaching about living not just for the here and now, but for eternity. Saints of God, stand firm and smile on the inside. Know that no matter what price you have to pay for believing in, trusting and following Christ on this earth, great is your reward in heaven.

+ PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Response:

P We pray in hope, **C** **make all things new.**

OFFERING IS GATHERED

+ OFFERING PRAYER

P Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
C **for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for you have created all things and by your will they exist and were created. Therefore, day and night we never cease to sing, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

+ SANCTUS

LBW # 175

Respond, ye souls in endless rest, Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
“Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, All saints triumphant,
raise the song:

“Alleluia! Alleluia,” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

+ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
+ LORD’S PRAYER

+ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Saints of God, taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word
and I shall be healed.**

DISTRIBUTION

What is this Bread? What is this Wine? At Messiah Lutheran Church, the Holy Supper of our Lord is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that we receive “the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.” Our Lord welcomes to His table those who have faith in these words, “given for you” and “shed for you...for the forgiveness of sin.” Please extend hand out to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or from individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Pastor follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup in the rack on the communion rail. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing “that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.”

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Join in singing the following selections from various resources:

BECAUSE HE LIVES

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,
He came to love, heal, and forgive:
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future.

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a new-born baby,
And feel the pride, and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Refrain:

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Refrain:

WOV # 674 ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN

ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

REFRAIN

Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

REFRAIN

Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
give of the future now flowing to me.

REFRAIN

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:

Dismiss to the fellowship hall for refreshments served by LWML, Div. 3. Last chance for Bazaar items.

MESSIAH MESSENGER

Messiah Lutheran Church, 500 Baytree Road, Valdosta, GA.

Announcements and news for the week of November 2 – November 9, 2008

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	All Saints Sunday	10:30	AM
	LWML, DIV 2 host refreshments after worship		

(Due to the election the fellowship hall is by GA law a restricted area from Monday noon until Wednesday noon)

TUESDAY	ELECTION DAY	7:AM - 7:PM	
WEDNESDAY	Jr. Confirmation class	5:00	PM
	Choir	7:30	PM
THURSDAY	Thursday Craft group	9:00	AM
	Baytree AA group	7:30	PM
SATURDAY	Baytree AA group	7:30	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	26 th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30	AM

WE ARE DEVOTED TO OFFERING ... "God's Love, Our Response"

2008 Budget Goal	\$ 134,716.00
Goal per week	\$ 2,591.00
Goal to Date	\$ 111,413.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 10/26	\$ 118,914.00
Offering Last Sunday 10/26	\$ 1,935.00
Weekly average for 43 weeks	\$ 2,765.00

Designated Offerings:

Building Fund	\$ 0.00
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"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that ... having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Cor. 9: 8)

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are a gift and a warm reminder of God's love to bloom where you are planted from Margaret Rupp in memory of Richard O. Rupp.

Thanks for the gift of flowers to enhance our worship, and to glorify the Lord our God and Savior. To order flowers, please use the registry located on the stand in the hallway toward the fellowship hall.

GRACE & PEACE from Pr. Richard

Pat Scherer who returned to Texas, to be closer with her children and grandchildren was transferred to Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Garland, TX. Pat is Janie Jansen’s sister and was with us for about a year.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Justin Sullins (11/7); Marcia Lorden, Bob Hubbard, Kyle Schilly, Pr. Richard (11/8). Missed *on this list? Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.*

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES deployed: Jeremy Christians in Korea; Dan Shannon, deployed to Iraq At US bases: Kevin Sparks (Robins AFB, GA) Brian Sparks (Navy, VA)

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING PATIENTS/SHUT-INS

Rusty Hatcher at Heritage House Nursing Home
 Otto Peterson, Advent Village, FL. Nursing Home
 Mike Lagioia, Heritage House Nursing Home
 Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones
 Vi Heidemann, heart condition
 Lil Lawrence, Langdale Hospice House

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
Larry Ballowe	Lou Gehrig’s disease	Rae Hubbard	friend’s brother
June Orrison	cancer	Gloria Cook	cousin
Nancy Pieper	cancer	Lee & Sunny Schilly	friend
Belinda Judy	brain tumor	Dorothy Hauge	friend
Pr. Duane Hoyer	brain tumor	Warren Gee	friend
Kaylie Ellis (age4)	leukemia	Ellen Mitchell	friend
Gary Pasquinzo	chemo treatments	Bob Burns	uncle Mina Ark
Lorna	declining health	Linda Klement	mother in MN
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer’s	Betty Zipperer	sister
Mary Bennett	kidney removed	Susan Keller	friend
Roy McDanielle	lung disease	Duane Hauge	friend
Ricky Harrell	needs kidney transplant	Erin Jansen	uncle
Elizabeth Rabon	cancer	Erin Jansen	grandmother
Linda Brightwell	cancer	Tina Wright	friend/co-worker
Landon Adkins (age 5)	serious allergic reactions	Janie Jansen	friend
Diane McNamara	breast cancer	Pat Simpson	niece
Trudy Sigmon	tumor on tonque	Nancy Stewart	friend
Ruth Eikelberg	ICU	Nancy Stewart	mother in MI
Dr. Bradley Woodward	cancer	Pernell Jones	friend
Maebeth Gerisch	nursing home care	Ed Gerisch	wife
Charles Todd	tests on pancreas	Dana Black	friend
Melanie McDonald	brain seizures	Mary Kichen	cousin
Lisa Lane	cancer	Nan Boyd	coworker
Peter Dotlich	colon cancer	Bo Miller	friend
Dr. Peter Medrano	pulmonary fibrosis	Pr Richard	friend
Suzanne Padgett	chemo pending	Kay Vincent	coworker

Will Parker	stroke, surgery pending	Dorothy Hauge	brother-in-law
Karen Lane	tests for tumor at Mayo	Kathy Lane	Vern's daughter
Teri Williams,	complications with pregnancy		
Vickie Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	mother
Bobby Joe Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	step-father
Jamie Barnhart (25)	kidney failure	Amber O'Quinn	friend

Invited, United, Sent

The list of blessings in Matthew 5 brings together the needs of the present with the hope of the future. In Jesus' teachings, a world to come breaks in upon the present world, challenging believers to take seriously how their decisions and their work relate to the future reign of God.

As Christians, we receive much of our insight into "blessedness" through the texts and traditions, figures and stories of our past. On this day we lift up the lives of our ancestors in faith; we unite with the saints of history in our Sunday celebrations and prayers. We also gather with the saints of the present as we greet one another and share signs of peace during our worship, joining in conversation and prayer, and approaching the communion table together.

Blessed are we who join in this supper! In this meal, the past, present, and future are one. Our ancient tradition unites us with those who came before us, yet it anticipates the great feast to come; in the meantime it feeds us, now, in answer to our needs and our hunger for God's presence. The meal reminds us of the world's present needs, the physical and spiritual and total need that asks for our ministry. In this union of past, present, and future, we are invited and sent at the same time.

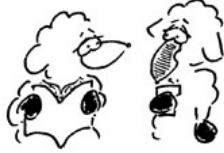
We can be those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. We are those who can show mercy and make peace. May the vision of God's desires for our world, and our faith in the divine reign to come, draw us to come and to go, to unite past, present, and future in our own lives as we shape our world's ongoing history.

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OKAY, REALLY!
WHO COULD LIVE UP
TO THIS LIST?



SOME THINK THAT FOR
MATTHEW, THIS IS MOSTLY
A DESCRIPTION OF JESUS.



HUH... AND MY
GRANDMOTHER
SAID IT WAS RUDE
TO TALK ABOUT
YOURSELF.



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WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano
Choir Director
Reader
Communion Assistants
Acolyte
Presenter, Children's message
Greeters
Nursery
Ushers

Kay Vincent
Marjorie Fix
John Mitchell
George Vincent
Chandler Christians
Nancy Sult, Tina Wright
Courtney & Jesse Sheeley
Janie Jansen
Sean Davis, Mike Dauphanais
Tage France, Bryce France
Pat Simpson
Volunteer
Bob & Valerie Behnke
Fran Sparks
Helen Whitten
Whitten family
Fred Daniels 245-0483
Laverne Smith 229 387-6060

Altar preparation/Chancel care
Sound tech
Custodians
Altar linen
Flower service
Flower beds
Grass cutting
Floor Maintenance Smith's Janitorials

Church Council.....

Kay Vincent, president
Jan Sparks, financial secretary
Jeff Moxley, stewardship
Bo Miller, worship
John Mitchell, property

Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
Kathy Lane, treasurer
Cindy Mitchell, youth
Vacant, evangelism
Dana Black, Christian Ed.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

Nov 9

Nov 16

Nov 23

Reader:	C Sweeney	B Miller	D Rocky
Com Assist:	N Boyd	C Miller	D Rocky
Acolyte:	A Sweeney	R Spencer	Z Moxley
Chancel:	N Boyd	L Grall	E Mitchell
Nursery:	V Behnke	C Spencer	P Simpson

Greeters:	V Benavides	M Rupp	W Gee
	E Benavides	M Evans	B Gee
Ushers:	E Sheeley	W Gee	G Vincent
	J Sheeley	B Gee	L Vincent
	B Miller	W Tinney	J Willis
	J Moxley	L Tinney	B Behnke

Mission Statement

A place of worship for all to know Christ, be energized by the Gospel and share Christ's love.

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