



God will
wipe away
every tear
from their eyes

REVELATION 7:17

Sunday, November 5, 2023
All Saints Sunday

For Those Worshipping Virtually

Bethlehem Lutheran has a tradition of lighting candles on the Sunday that we celebrate All Saints. These candles serve as a remembrance of loved ones who have died. We invite you to bring a candle into your worship space at home today and leave it unlit as we begin worship. There will be an opportunity during today's service for you to light this candle.



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org
The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

Sunday, November 5, 2023 ~ *All Saints Sunday*

PRELUDE

Prélude

Johann Sebastian Bach

from *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major*, BWV 1007

Rita Monahan, guest violist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. 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.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	For All the Saints	ELW 422
----------------	--------------------	---------

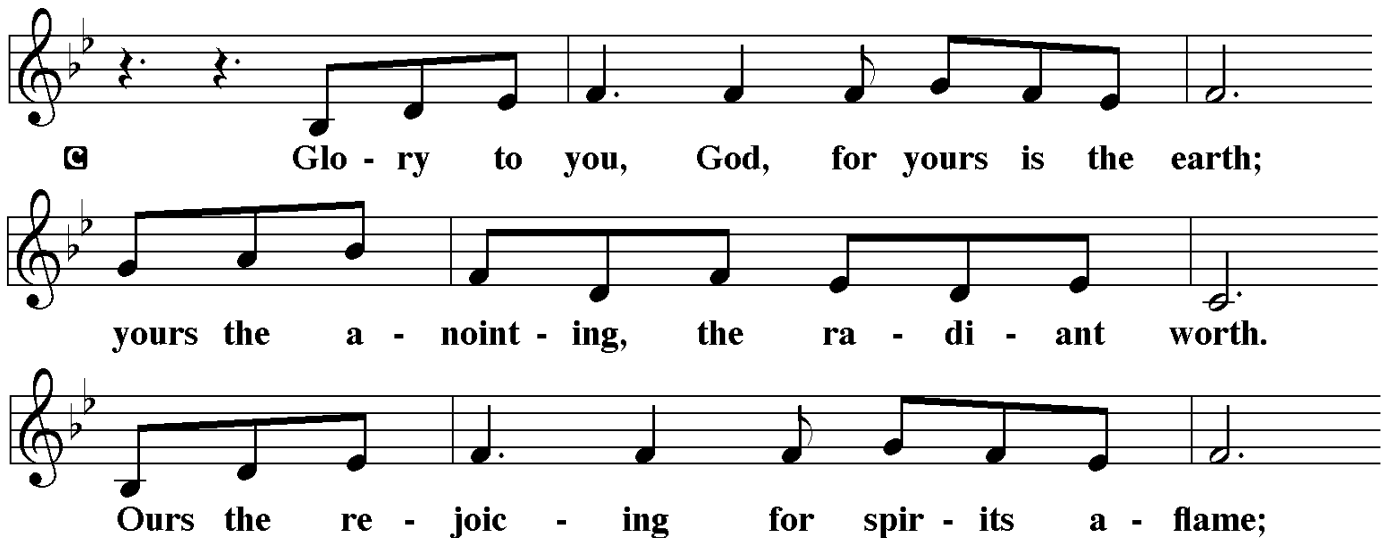
Stanzas 1, 2: All
3: Choir
6, 7: All

GREETING

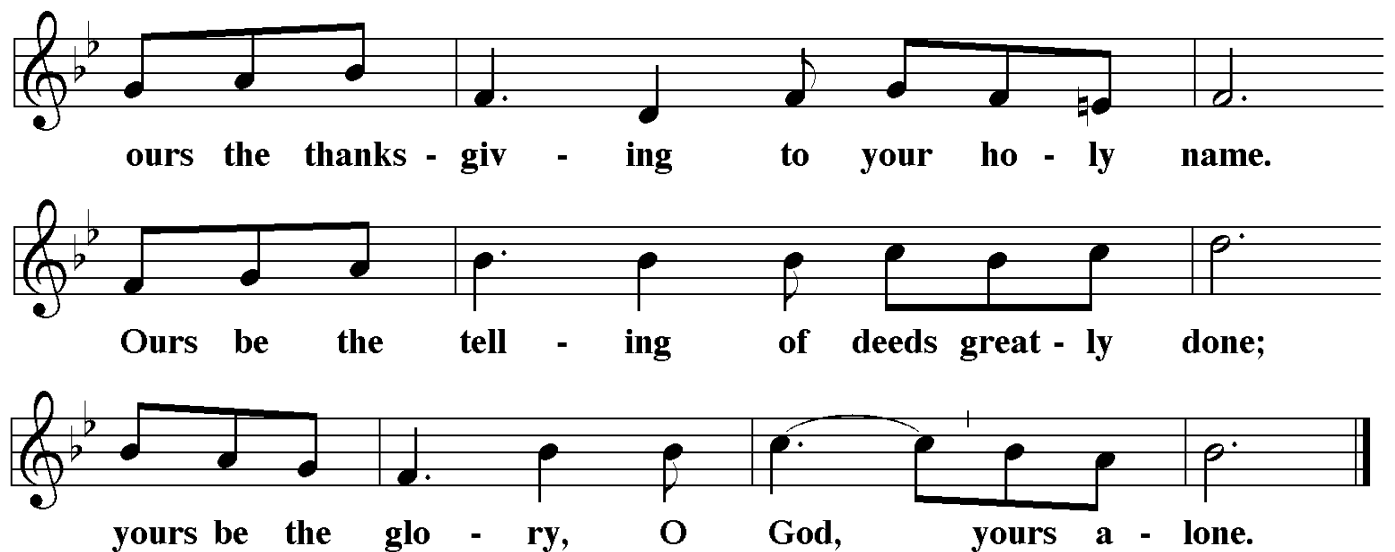
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS

All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in the room across the hall from the side entrance to the sanctuary. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.

READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

¹See what love the Father has given 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. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

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.

¹When 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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

#1 Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

By the power of your Spirit, you build us into your beloved community. Strengthen the connections we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Dorothy, Jason & Kristen (Kaitlynne), Brendan & Vera, and Jeff & Terri. Strengthen the ministries we share with others, especially our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Extend your arms of mercy to those struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Evelyn E, mother of Kay S, who died on 10/23

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Becky R, friend of Jim and Donna B, who recovering from a serious surgery
- Irene M, friend of Jim and Donna B, who recovering from a serious surgery
- Gary S, friend of Jim and Donna B, who recovering from a serious surgery
- Sara E, daughter of Pat, E who is at home after being hospitalized

Hear these prayers we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor.

If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

OFFERING

Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting

blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry.

OFFERING OF MUSIC
O God of All Creation

ad. from Psalms 104 and 36
Valerie MacKenzie

The Chancel Choir
assisted by Sue Cardinal, flute

OFFERTORY

☉ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty,

**all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

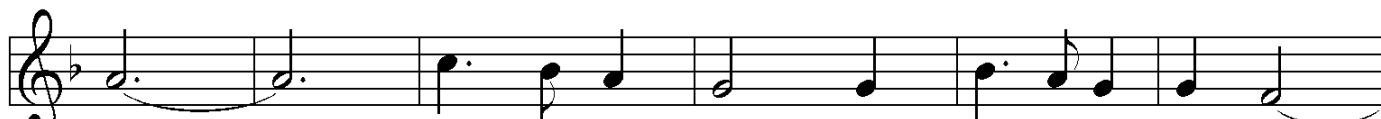
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and



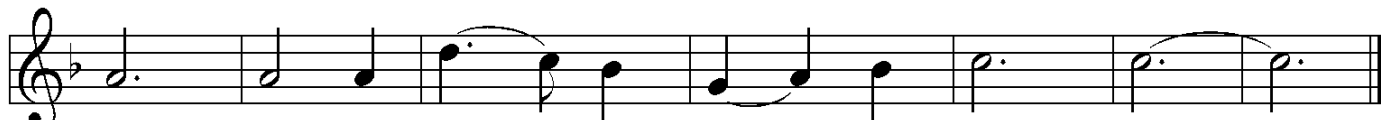
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lord Jesus, you are resurrection and life.

We give thanks that at your table you fill us with good things and feed us from your abundance.

Pour out your Spirit on us and this feast of love.

Build us into a lasting community that embodies your love. Strengthen us to serve you in all we do. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who

sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

THE COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Shall We Gather at the River

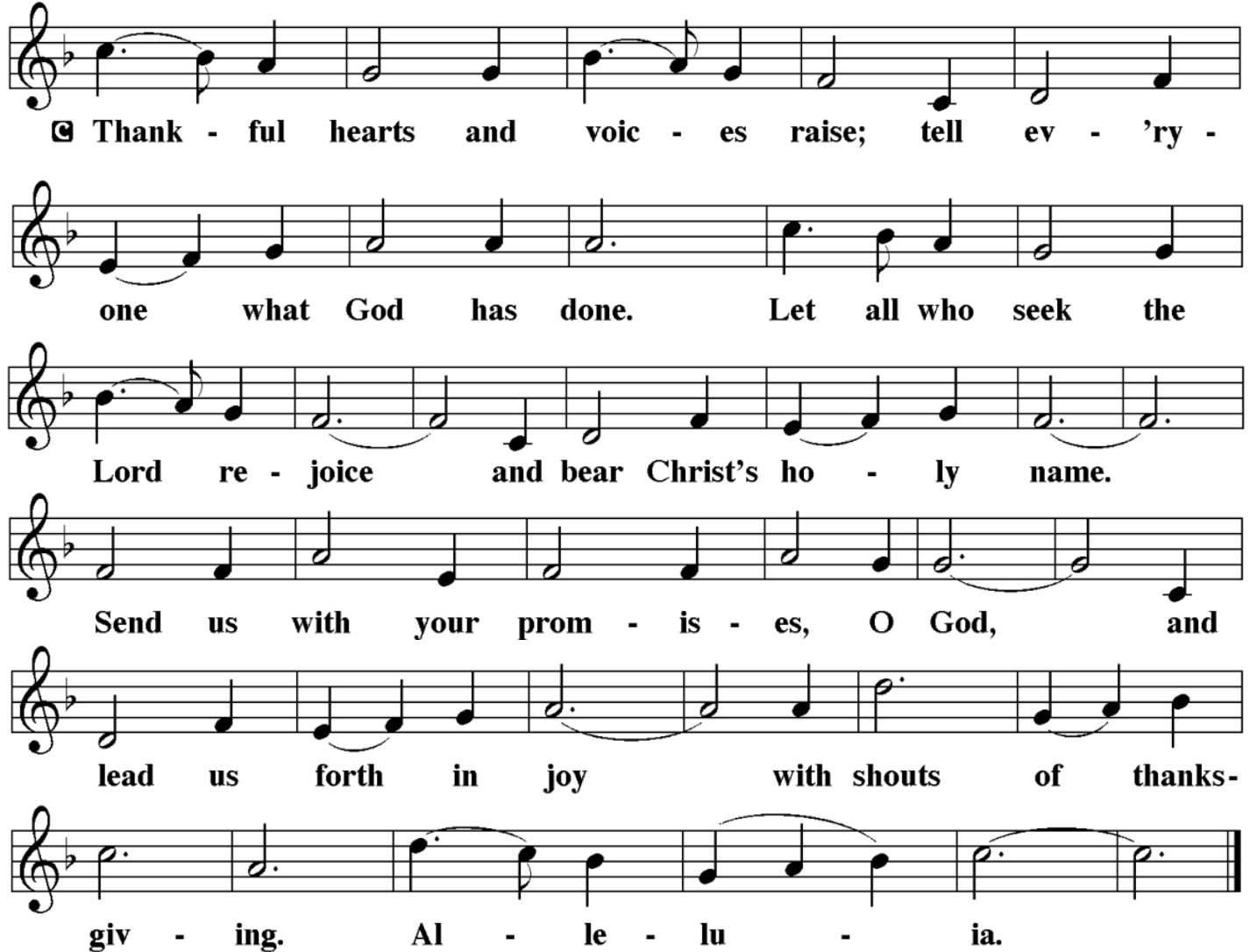
ELW 423

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds
in † Christ Jesus.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

(MARION)

Arthur H. Messiter
setting, Emma Lou Diemer

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Dr. Jim Jefferis, Director of The Chancel Choir

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with Mark Finke or one of the pastors following worship or contact Mark directly at volunteersupport@blcfairport.org.

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Our co-Pastors are available Sunday-Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org.

Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from OneLicense under Annual License #A-724002

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Sunday, November 5, 2023 ~ For all the Saints...

We give thanks and praise to God for their life and witness. Today we remember our siblings in Christ at Bethlehem who have died since All Saints' Day 2022, as well as those remembered by family and friends of the Bethlehem community.

Mike B, colleague of Mike Koncilja
Maddie Barthelmes, daughter of Kathy Forney's friends
Katherine Bingo, grandmother of Eric Coffaro
Dana Berntson, uncle of Mark Finke
Lorraine Bloomquist, friend of Ruth Hedin
Gail Borroff, friend of Jan and Howard Sharp
Deloris Bramstedt, grandmother of Liana Coffaro
John (Mozart) Brustrom, college friend of John Costanza
Jack Curran, bowling friend of John Costanza
Ben Dehmler, best friend of Dan Meetze
Peter DiSalvo, friend and neighbor of Wholley Family
Linnea Donahower, BLC member and wife of Cliff Donahower
Evelyn Ekegren, mother of Kay Slattery
Phil Embury, BLC member
Danny Faes, friend of Sue and Rich Towsley
Erna Fairbrother, grandmother of Lisa Wholley and Jeff DeVoesick
Linda Flick, friend of Jan and Howard Sharp
Charles (Chick) Forney, BLC member and husband of Kathy Forney
Beatrice (Bea) French, aunt of Jeff Cook
George E. Glady, brother of Toni Thompson
Robin D. Glady, cousin of Toni Thompson
Charles Griffith, dear friend of Bob and Phyllis Stock
David Groff, son of Sandy and Don Groff
Ruth Hall, friend of Jan and Howard Sharp
Concetta "Connie" Helbig, BLC member and wife of Erich Helbig
Steve Hoffman, father of Kevin Hoffman
Lew Hyde Jr., friend of Jan and Howard Sharp
Eleanor Larson, aunt of Amy Walter-Peterson
Bob Lohr, BLC member and husband of Judy Lohr
Barbara Love, dear friend of Kathy Forney
Dylan Jennings, friend of Sue and Rich Towsley
Bob Kern, father of Cathy Finke

Vaudean Kieper, friend of Paulette Costanza
Jeanine Kline, sister of Susie DePasquale
Mike Moczarski, brother of Dave Moczarski
Tim Montalbano, husband of Linda Montalbano
Rev. Rob Moore, former pastor and friend of Andy Gates
Art Moran, grandfather of Lisa Wholley
Ginger Moran, grandmother of Lisa Wholley
John. A. Nettleton, cousin of Toni Thompson
Angelo Perciballi, father of Marianne Hirsch
Deborah Perciballi, mother of Marianne Hirsch
Mario Piane, neighbor of Wholley family
Kevin Pool, friend of Meetze family
Bill Preston, friend of Jan and Howard Sharp
Julie Ramey-Storch, family friend of Kim Kulik
Don Raw, father of Kim Kulik
Doug Ridley, friend of Jan and Howard Sharp
Ricki Schaefer, BLC member and wife of Jim Schaefer
Doug Sharp, former BLC member
Rachel Skanron, daughter of John Costanza's cousin
Pam, daughter of Jim Sheldon
Doris Sick, mother of Jeff DeVoesick
Mary Strecker, mother of John Perry
Chrissy Watkins, wife of Lynn Meady's co-worker
Diane Weltzer, BLC member and mother of Laurie Tokarz
Marie Wholley, mother of Brendan Wholley

Saintly Sinners, Sinful Saints

All Saints Sunday and the appointed readings are pregnant with themes of stark contrast: death and life, condemnation and redemption, sorrow and joy, suffering and relief, present life and future life. Such is life, too, as baptized children of God. The very nature of our lives is of stark contrast.

By virtue of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are made saints while we are still sinners. Every day in this nautically juxtaposed life we navigate through rough waters such as sin, evil, pain, heartache, addiction, abuse, hunger, disease, and war. But our bearing is always set, not by the North Star but by the Daystar, who has been the heading for the faithful of every generation. With the scriptures as our compass and the confessions our map, we sail as a part of the great flotilla of saints on the waters of baptism, with the wind of the Spirit at our backs, always pointed in the direction of our guiding Daystar.

Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come. We give thanks for the examples of faithful living that the saints have given us as they navigated the stormy waters of life, and also for the faithful acts of service we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit to do in our own seas. We give thanks, too, for the fullness of eternal life in which the saints of God who have gone before us now partake and which we have yet to fully enjoy.