



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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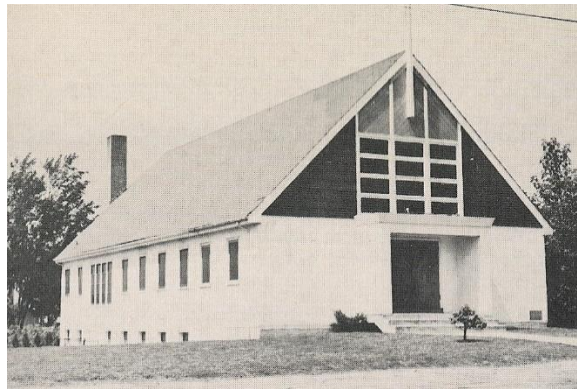
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**All Saints Sunday
November 6, 2022
ACS Holy Communion, Setting 12**

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.

A warm welcome to those who are here worshipping in-person and on-line with us today! Here at Grace Lutheran we believe God is active in your life. Even you being here now is testament of God’s calling and leading in your heart, which you have faithfully heeded. So we welcome you, and pray that today you will be nurtured and that the gifts that God has graciously given you will be stirred for the sake of God’s mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP AND THANKSGIVING FOR ALL SAINTS AND 70 YEARS OF MINISTRY

We are gathered together this day as the assembly of the faithful, to sing hallelujah to the Lord our God and to rejoice in our maker and ruler. While we might not be physically dancing or playing the tambourine or harp, we do sing praises to the Lord for we have been adorned with victory.

This triumph given to us by God isn't vengeance over our enemies or punishment on those who have hurt us, but it is in the everlasting and eternal promise of life: life with God, life in community with and in service to each other, life that truly is life.

And so we rejoice for the past 70 years of ministry to and from this congregation called Grace Lutheran, giving thanks to the faithfulness of our God, the grace of Jesus, the leading of the Spirit, and of course all the members of the past and present, some of which are represented here by these candles, reunited with us in worship.

All honour and glory be to God for all that God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in this congregation, in this world, and in all of us together as the one body of Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONG: For All the Saints (#422) verses 1,3,5,7

GREETING

The everlasting grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal love of God, and the enduring fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

SONG OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



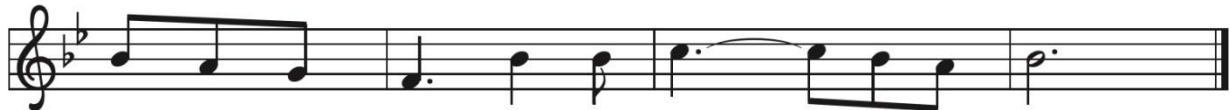
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



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

O God, you have been present with us in this congregation of Grace Lutheran in Burnaby since we began 70 years ago, just as you are present with all congregations and gatherings of faith, and you have blessed us with your grace and welcome to be the body of Christ in the world. We give thanks for the saints who founded and been part of this congregation in the past, as they continue to be part of your community through their influence and inspiration of faith, reminding us always of your hand at work in our ministry and in our lives. Increase in us the spirit of faith and justice, and may our fellowship be an example of love, service, and peace to all people, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

A reading from Daniel.

The book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel's vision of the four beasts proclaims that human kings will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God's people.

¹In 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: ²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶I 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: ¹⁷“As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 149

¹Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song,
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

²**Let Israel rejoice in their maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.**

³Let them praise their maker's name with dancing;
let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.

⁴**For the LORD takes pleasure in the people
and adorns the poor with victory.**

⁵Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶**Let the praises of God be in their throat
and a two-edged sword in their hand,**

⁷to wreak vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,

⁸**to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles with links of iron,**

⁹to inflict on them the judgment decreed;
this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:11-23

A reading from Ephesians.

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, the writer of this letter prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.

¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸so 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, ²¹far 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. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

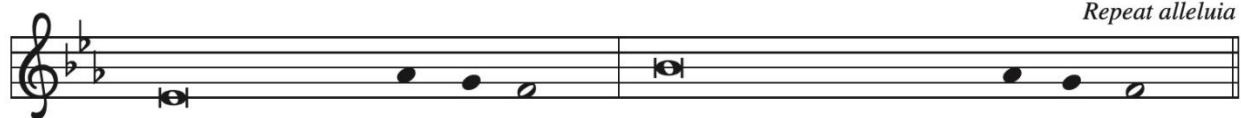
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:20-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In echoes of the prophet Isaiah and Mary's song of praise, Jesus reveals surprising things about who enjoys blessing and who endures woe. He invites his disciples to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders.

²⁰Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,

for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice 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.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“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.

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

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

O God, may your Spirit be upon us as your Word enlightens the eyes of our hearts, reminding us of life joined with you and all the saints in giving us love, joy, and hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

What a great day today is. Not only is it All Saints when we can remember how connected we are with those that we loved and lost, how they continue to be present among us in the Spirit represented by these candles, and how we can be inspired to look forward to an eternity with them and with God. Not only are we welcoming a new member into our congregation today, sure he might be a returning former member, but when your church is the size of ours it's always exciting to see that people still remember that we exist. Not only are we celebrating our 70th anniversary as a congregation, that's longer than most people in this room have been alive, and we can look back at the ups and downs of our ministry, reminisce on the good ol' days when beehive hairdos were still a thing, and remember the effect this church had on this community. Not only do we have a bunch of special guests with us today from our bishop to former pastors and even some former members that we can connect and reconnect with like we did yesteryear. Not only are we going to have an extended goodies time with specially made cookies by my own wife who is now this big shot tv star, which is probably pretty promising. Not only did we get an extra hour of sleep so we're all well rested and ready to go. Not only do we have this laundry list of blessings to make this day great, but we also get to listen to this sermon.

This... sermon. I admit that this is a hard one to write, as we have so much going on today that I really want to do the festivities justice. We have so many guests today that I really want to leave a good impression so maybe they'll come back. We have so many pastors and spouses of pastors in attendance that I really need to bring my A game.

No pressure or anything though, right?

But like I always tell myself when I'm really nervous or stressed about something, by the time it's over, it'll be over. I just have to hang in there until that time. And that's true for pretty much anything in our lives, right? That is just how this linear time that we live in works, that everything has a beginning and an end. Sometimes that's a good thing, like we know this sermon will eventually end and with it, my nervousness and stress. But sometimes it's a bad thing, like we know this day of celebration of our 70th anniversary will eventually end, and who knows how many more milestone anniversaries this we have in us, our communities and congregations all around, Lutheran or not, are headed towards closure, and even our time here on this planet will someday cease.

Well, this got real bleak real fast.

But I'm not saying anything that we don't already know, it's just that we don't always look at life this way, or at least we might not say it out loud. Because we know, as the saying goes, "all good things come to an end". We know that what goes up must come down. We know that sometimes in life we get blessings, and sometimes we get woes.

And that conveniently brings us to today's gospel lesson, Jesus' beatitudes out of Luke. We're most likely familiar with the beatitudes that come out of Matthew, as I think that shows up in our lectionary more often for some strange reason. But unlike those in Matthew, these beatitudes, these "utmost blessings" as it can be translated, that we get in Luke are paired with a bunch of woes. And not "woes" as in "whoa, nice one" but more like "whoa, bad one" because these woes, almost like curses, totally contrast the blessings that precede them. Which I guess doesn't come as a surprise seeing as how the blessings and the woes in themselves seem to contradict what we consider blessings and woes.

I mean, we don't see it as a blessing when we're poor, hungry, sad, or hated. We avoid those things like the plague, or coronavirus as it were. We do everything in our power to stay away from them, and we work hard to obtain what Jesus calls woes. You know, being rich, well fed, having a good time, and popular and respected. Those are basically all our life goals, in fact, some of those are our goals for this very service and celebration.

So what is Jesus trying to tell here on this All Saints Sunday? Because this doesn't really sound like good news in that we have to get bad to get good and when we get good we get bad. It doesn't sound like we can ever make it in life or any kind of celebration would be worth it knowing that it'll just end anyway. It doesn't sound like life could ever be fair or would finally let up and put us on the easy path of only blessing and no hardships.

Well, it doesn't sound like that because it won't ever be like that.

We will never be free from endings. We will never be free from death. We will never be free from woes.

I mean, we won't be free from them happening in that they *will happen*. They are absolutely unavoidable. Looking at these candles that we have lit up here and even looking back at our

congregation's last 70 years of existence proves that. We've loved and lost so many, we've had pillars of our community fall, we've had our fair share of difficult times.

And that's the thing, in that Jesus reminds us that we are blessed. Even when the chips are down, when conflict arises, and death occurs, God remains faithful and true and holds us in our sorrow and brings healing to our brokenness. Blessed are you, hurting soul, for God's love continues to shine in and around you and lifts you up and will end your suffering.

But when times are good, when we are celebrating and enjoying life and maybe eating delicious cookies, all that isn't meaningless but Jesus does warn us that those times will end as well. And so we are humbled by knowing that life doesn't actually let up, that times of good fortune don't make us better than others, and prosperity does not and cannot define us. Rather, those times are fleeting so we mustn't put too much of our trust in them to define our joy, to bring us peace, or even to save us.

And in the middle of all that, God is present, lifting up the lowly and humbling the haughty and bringing us all together into community as the one body of Christ. It's in this body is where we find support in our difficult times and celebration in our joys, knowing that through it all we aren't defined by these moments and days, but by the grace and mercy of God that saves us not from things happening, but from their effects on us and our eternity.

For God is with us through the good and bad. God is with us, through life and death. God is with us in our longevity and endings, recreating us and reforming us as God's own beloved people.

In a few moments we will be welcoming back a former member and perhaps recapturing a bit of the past. This is most appropriate on this day of celebrating the saints of the past as well as our anniversary, many years of which many of us have been a part of. But in these celebrations and joys of what was, may we look forward to what God might bring and see the blessing in all that is to come. For while everything in our world and in our lives comes to an end, God's grace, mercy, and love will remain eternal and steadfast in this community and congregation and in all the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: God's Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Olaf, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome back as our newest but old member into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Olaf Rostad has come to our congregation from Mount Olive Lutheran in Surrey.

CREED (p. 104)

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Olaf, as our brother in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for Olaf in his life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME

Let us welcome Olaf, our brother in Christ to this community of faith.
**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into ministry with each other and all the saints, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "by your steadfast grace and mercy, O God," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we sing to you a new song for you have provided for and been present with our congregation since we began ministry here 70 years ago, and you continue to draw in new members to share in our worship. We pray for all of our members of the past, present, and future, that we all remain close in your Spirit through the breaking of bread and sharing in prayers, as we continue to serve others and carry this mission into the future. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we give thanks for the gift of being able to praise you in the assembly of the faithful, and we joyfully worship together with all your people. We again give thanks for 70 years of ministry and look forward to how you lead us into the future. We remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; our partner Anglican Church of Canada; our bishop Kathy, assistant to the bishop Rebekah, and national bishop Susan; and our companion congregations of the BC Synod. In particular, we pray for Lutheran Church of the Cross in Victoria and their pastors Lyle McKenzie and Lyndon Sayers; and for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church also in Victoria and the pastors and leaders that assist in their ministry. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you have made all the lands, seas, and skies and everything in them, and we praise you for entrusting them to us. We pray for your care on all areas ravaged by harsh weather and natural disasters, and for our strength as we do what we can to help them find relief. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you continually bless us and bring us to victory by your grace and mercy. Be with all world leaders, politicians, and people of influence that they might learn from your wisdom and lead with integrity. We pray especially for all countries and communities that face war and the threat of violence and for those that we've sponsored to come into this country: Solyana Amanuel; and Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, even in our afflictions you give us reason to sing for joy. Be with all among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your steadfast love and enduring grace be apparent to us all. Especially we pray for Bev and family; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Diana; Laura; Kandie; Thomas; Cindy; William; Chris; Amika; Jack; Waleter; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...

By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our praises to you are in our throats as you welcome us all with the saints in your glory forever. Remind us always of the faithful lives of the past, that we continue to be inspired for the ministry of the future. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal and everlasting love and grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

By the witness of your saints
you show us the hope of our calling
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.
And so, with all the saints,
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus,
the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us.
You are our heart's desire.
You are our priceless treasure.
You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine.
Come among us, O passionate Fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts,
which we are about to receive from your bounty.

Bless our table and the feast we share.
Bless us with gladness of heart.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table make us your body.
Form us to be people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (p. 112)

Gathered together into God's glory of all time, let us 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

Taste and see the timeless love of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (ACS booklet)
As the Grains of Wheat (#465)
Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)
One Bread, One Body (#496)

LAMB OF GOD



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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God of all the saints bless you and keep you, the God who has watched over this congregation for the past 70 years continue to watch over you and be gracious unto you, the God who grants us all life look upon you with favour, and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: To Be Your Presence (#546)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to serve our God through thick and thin.
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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