

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

November 5, 2023  
All Saints Day Sunday  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

## CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 34

**Leader:** I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, let us exalt his name together!

**People:** **I sought the LORD and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all of his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and he delivers them.**

**Leader:** O taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! O fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### SONG OF PRAISE

“A mighty fortress is our God” (see insert)

## ALL SAINTS DAY READING Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

“Amen! Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength

be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 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.  
‘Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat down on them,  
nor any scorching heat.  
For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’  
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their  
eyes.’”

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. Forgive us our indifference to your will. You have commanded us to speak, but we have been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have been fearful. Have mercy on us, your faithless servants. Keep before us faithful people for us to follow so that, by your Holy Spirit, we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to the praise of your holy name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ephesians 2:19-22

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

“I sing a song of the saints of God”

I sing a song of the saints of God,

Patient and brave and true,  
Who toiled and fought and lived and died  
For the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
And one was a shepherdess on the green;  
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,  
And his love made them strong;  
And they followed the right for Jesus' sake  
The whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,  
And one was slain by a fierce wild beast;  
And there's not any reason, no, not the least,  
Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;  
There are hundreds of thousands still.  
The world is bright with the joyous saints  
Who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school,  
On the street, in the store,  
In church, by the sea, in the house next door;  
They are saints of God, whether rich or poor,  
and I mean to be one too.   **GRAND ISLE; Scott**

*\*\*Children ages 3-7 are dismissed for Sunday school.\*\**

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:  
"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
    for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
    for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
    for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
    for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
    for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
    for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward

in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING** I John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on 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. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**

**"How great is the love of the Father"**

How great is the love of the Father,  
The love he has shown to us;  
So great that he calls us his children,  
And children of God we are.

The world without God does not know us,  
Because it did not know Christ.  
Lord, help us to be pure and spotless,  
For children of God we are.

What we are to be in the future  
As yet has not been made known.  
But when Christ returns we shall see him,  
And then we shall be like him.   **James Ward**

**"This I believe (The Creed)"**

Our Father everlasting,  
The all creating One, God Almighty.  
Through your Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ the Son,  
Jesus our Savior.

*I believe in God our Father.*

*I believe in Christ the Son.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, our God is three in One.*

*I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again.*

*For I believe in the name of Jesus.*

Our judge and our defender, suffered and crucified,  
Forgiveness is in you.  
Descended into darkness, you rose in glorious life,  
Forever seated high.

I believe in you, I believe you rose again.

I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.

I believe in life eternal, I believe in the virgin birth.

I believe in the saints' communion  
And in your holy Church.  
I believe in the resurrection when Jesus comes again.  
For I believe in the name of Jesus. Crocker and Fielding

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

### OFFERTORY "Thy mercy, my God"

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.

Without thy sweet mercy, I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But through thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And he that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by thy goodness I fall to the ground,  
And weep for the praise of the mercy I found.  
Hallelujah!

Great Father of mercies, thy goodness I own;  
And the covenant love of thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine,  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.  
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine,  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.  
Hallelujah! Sandra McCracken; John Stocker

### SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 42 and 43 *NIV*

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?

<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me all day long,  
"Where is your God?"

<sup>4</sup> These things I remember as I pour out my soul:  
how I used to go to the house of God  
under the protection of the Mighty One  
with shouts of joy and praise  
among the festive throng.

<sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,  
my Savior and my God.

<sup>6</sup> My soul is downcast within me;  
therefore I will remember you  
from the land of the Jordan,  
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

<sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls;  
all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

<sup>8</sup> By day the LORD directs his love,  
at night his song is with me—  
a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I go about mourning,  
oppressed by the enemy?"

<sup>10</sup> My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me,  
saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

<sup>11</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,  
my Savior and my God.

### Psalm 43

<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause  
against an unfaithful nation.

Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked.

<sup>2</sup> You are God my stronghold.

Why have you rejected me?

Why must I go about mourning,  
oppressed by the enemy?

<sup>3</sup> Send me your light and your faithful care,  
let them lead me;

let them bring me to your holy mountain,  
to the place where you dwell.

<sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God, my joy and my delight.

I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

<sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,  
my Savior and my God.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** "Longing for God" Rev. Jim Fredere

### THE LORD'S TABLE

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts!

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Leader:** It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we honor and adore your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

**People:** **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts!**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Glory be to you, O Lord, most high. Amen**

## **The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER**

**Leader:** Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**People:** **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

**Leader:** The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come eat and drink with thanksgiving.

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Bread is gluten-free.*

*Outer cups - juice. Inner rings - wine.*

### **“Taste and see”**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord,  
The goodness of the Lord.

*Solo: I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord;  
The lowly will hear me and be glad.*

*Glorify the Lord with me;  
Let us together extol his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.*

*The angel of the Lord encamps  
Around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is;  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.*

**Rawn Harbor**

## **MUSIC OF COMMITMENT**

**“For all the saints” (see insert)**

### **BENEDICTION** Colossians 1:11-12

May you be strengthened with all power according to God's glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.