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Revelation 7:9-10

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A Member of L utheran Church Canada

2024 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION

"WHAT'S KEEPING US HERE?"

"This is what the Lord says to you: Do not be afraid or discouraged-For the battle is not yours but God's." 2 Chronicles 20:15

The answer to this question may seem obvious: Our faith in God, the Father, our Saviour Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Because of that we want to be fed by Him through Word and Sacrament, praise Him, worship Him and thank Him. We also want to grow in our faith to live it out, spreading His message to others.

In an ever-changing world with so many challenges, let us make 2024 a year to use the different talents and abilities God has given us to make our church a welcoming place for all. Working together in love because He first loved us! Remembering and trusting: He will be with us and guide us!

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ. Talk to Pastor John today.

All Saints Day (Observed) ~ November 3, 2024

As We Gather

We are reminded that this gathering is in truth a far greater assemblage than the number of people in this room at this time. The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as we journey through our earthly lives we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses" (12:1) and tells of "the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven" and "the spirits of the righteous made perfect" (12:23). Hymn writer Isaac Watts reminds us that "the saints on earth and those above but one communion make; joined to their Lord in bonds of love, all of His grace partake" (TLH 478:1). On this feast of All Saints, with the timeless words of the Te Deum, we pray that by God's grace we, too, will be "numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting" (LSB, p. 225). With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the faith that binds us together with the faithful of all times!

WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

Opening Hymn

676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

1 Behold a host, arrayed in white,
Like thousand snow-clad mountains bright!
With palms they stand; Who is this band
Before the throne of light?
These are the saints of glorious fame,
Who from the great affliction came
And in the flood Of Jesus' blood
Are cleansed from guilt and shame.
They now serve God both day and night;
They sing their songs in endless light.
Their anthems ring As they all sing
With angels shining bright.

2 Despised and scorned, they sojourned here;
But now, how glorious they appear!
Those martyrs stand, A priestly band,
God's throne forever near.
On earth they wept through bitter years;
Now God has wiped away their tears,
Transformed their strife To heav'nly life,
And freed them from their fears.
They now enjoy the Sabbath rest,
The heav'nly banquet of the blest;
The Lamb, their Lord, At festive board
Himself is host and guest.

3 O blessèd saints in bright array
Now safely home in endless day,
Extol the Lord, Who with His Word
Sustained you on the way.
The steep and narrow path you trod;
You toiled and sowed the Word abroad;
Rejoice and bring Your fruits and sing
Before the throne of God.
The myriad angels raise their song;
O saints, sing with that happy throng!
Lift up one voice; Let heav'n rejoice
In our Redeemer's song!

Invocation and Opening Sentences Psalm 34:1, 3, 8-9; 37:28; 97:11-12

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

- P: Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!
- C: For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.

- P: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- C: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!
- P: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- C: Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!

Confession and Absolution

- P: Beloved of God, we rejoice to be numbered with the saints. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution.
- C: Almighty God, we repent of all of our sins in thought, word, and deed, known and unknown. In Your mercy, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we may serve You as Your redeemed people, now and forever. AMEN
- P: Because of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sins of all people, The Father has promised His forgiveness. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you always live as the saints with the bright and glorious future that you are in Christ.

C: AMEN

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 149

- P: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!
- C: Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
- P: Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!
- C: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

- P: Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.
- C: Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,
- P: to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples,
- C: to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron,
- P: to execute on them the judgment written! This is honour for all his godly ones.

C: Praise the Lord!

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. AMEN

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

First Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17

(God is worshipped by multitudes in heaven.)

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels were standing around the throne

and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?' I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And he said to me, 'These are the ones coming 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. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

Epistle Reading

1 John 3:1-3

(We are called God's children now through His love)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

(Jesus speaks to His disciples on the mountain.)

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they

shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P: These are the Words of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Tune: Hymn # 802)

Profession of Faith

In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r In mercy has brought us for worship this hour. He graciously grants us our years and our days And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

In Jesus, the Saviour, our hope is secured.

True God and true man once the cross he endured

To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin,

With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess; With power and truth the church now he does bless. As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then Be living in glory forever. AMEN

Children's Talk (Zion)

Hymn of the Day (Part 1) 677 (vs. 1-4) For All the Saints

1 For all the saints who from their labours rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia! 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old And win with them the victor's crown of gold!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day (Part 2) 677 (vs. 5-8) For All the Saints

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long, Steals on the ear the distant triumph song, And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west; Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest; Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: The saints triumphant rise in bright array; The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia! Alleluia! 8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Special Prayer On This All Saints' Day

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us in faith. They were created by God to offer Him praise and thanksgiving forever. God gave new life to them through Holy Baptism. He nourished them in the company of His people at His Holy Table. In His mercy He summoned them to His eternal presence so that they may continue to serve Him forever.

We honour the life and give thanks to God for His saints:

[The bell is tolled as a sign of remembrance and of victory in Christ.]

Gerald Gordon Martene
Barbara Ann Dougherty
Marion June Hayter
Glen Aaron Restemayer
Leeland Restemayer
Jean Helma Holmes
Mary Pires

Brian Leonard Denomme Donna Margaret Murray Lester William Albert Hohner William Hendrick Vandeworp Gloria June Hayter

... and all others in our hearts.

P: In joyful anticipation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, Lord, those relatives, friends, and fellow members of this congregation who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold to the certainty of Your promises that where You are, there Your children will be also. Bless the memories of the saints among us and keep us firm in the certain hope of the great reunion to come in Your gracious eternal kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray,

C: AMEN

Prayers of the Church

P: Lord, we gratefully pray for the church at large and for the fellowship we enjoy as Your holy people. We pray for the saints in other places around the world who share in our faith and hope and love and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father, we thankfully pray for those who serve in leadership positions at Synod, our Region, and our local congregations. We ask that You would bless their work among us, and for us, in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Jesus, we confidently lift to You the sick, the sorrowing, and all who are in need of our prayers. We especially pray for... and all in our hearts. Hear their prayers, Good Shepherd, and answer

according to Your gracious will. May they be supported by this fellowship of saints with cheerful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, we humbly we ask Your blessings on our country, its leaders, and all who work for the security of our communities. Grant that we always cherish the freedoms we enjoy and be strengthened by Your power to maintain the public good and promote peace and harmony. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we rejoice with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. We thank you for the blessings of the past, and entrust them to your future care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: AMEN.

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

Benediction

P: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn

729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

- 1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee; Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.
- 2 I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow, For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.
- 3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood; Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.
- 4 I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead, Ev'ry day and hour supplying All my need.
- 5 I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail. Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.
- 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall. I am trusting Thee forever And for all.

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA

Organist: Bill Irwin

Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker

For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

ZION

Organist: Joanne Maguire

Altar Guild: P. Restemayer & K. Hayter

Elders: Ken Rader, Jim Hayter, Tom Hayter, Randy Bowers

For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789

Children's Talk: Marg Nicholson