

Behold Your Saints in Glory



Worshiping with the Saints

a service for SATB Choir with organ, trumpet, and assembly

by *Aaron David Miller*

First Lutheran Church + Saint Peter, MN + November 5, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

As we gather for worship this morning, you are invited to bring a photo or keepsake of your saint(s) to the provided tables by the baptismal font and to light a candle in their memory or honor.

“The Great Cloud”

There is a great cloud —

— so great a cloud of witnesses.

Watch for it when you kneel at the table. (See— there!)

“Therefore with the angels and archangels . . .”

Feel it when the Eucharistic window opens. (Was it wind?)

“ . . . And all the company of heaven . . .”

Hear it when the Sanctus rings across the threshold. (Voices!)

“ . . . we laud and magnify your glorious name.”

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! the cloud sings.

Across centuries.

Across millennia.

Into our day.

Into this holy place.

To this table.

Listen.

A great harmonious cloud.

Voices.

Praise.

-Susan Palo Cherwien
from *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*

All Saints Sunday

You are invited to stand in body or in spirit as indicated by an asterisk (*) and to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

*So that we may remember and rejoice in our time of worship to God,
today's worship assistants kindly ask that you refrain from applause until after the postlude.*

Gather with the Saints

Prelude — “Prelude on REPTON”

Setting by Aaron David Miller
Ben Bruflat, trumpet

*Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seems bleak:
on God's good promise they rely,
so while they live and when they die
how forcefully they speak—the strong, who once were weak!*

*Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, beyond mere mortal sight:
who seek the city God has planned,
the true, eternal promised land,
and steer on toward that light, a beacon ever bright.*

*Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a sparkling precious stone:
they show by what they say and do
an inward beauty, warm and true,
for God's concerns they own—God's love through them is known.*

*Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today:
though often by this world despised,
their hearts by God are richly prized.*

*Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.
-Martin E. Leckebusch*

Choral Introit — “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

Setting by Aaron David Miller

*Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we awaken, knowing everlasting peace.*

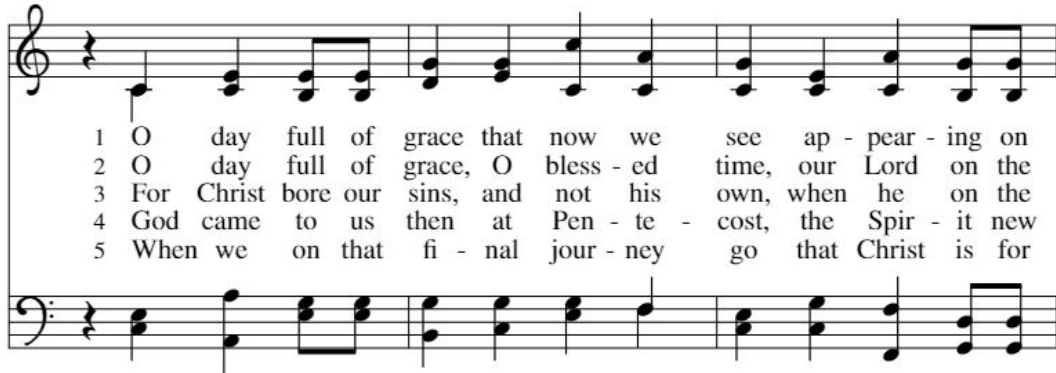
-William J. Irons

At the conclusion of the introduction, you are invited to stand in body or in spirit and face the processional cross.

***Processional Hymn — “O Day Full of Grace”**

Stanza 1: All Sing Stanza 2: High Voices Stanza 3: Low Voices

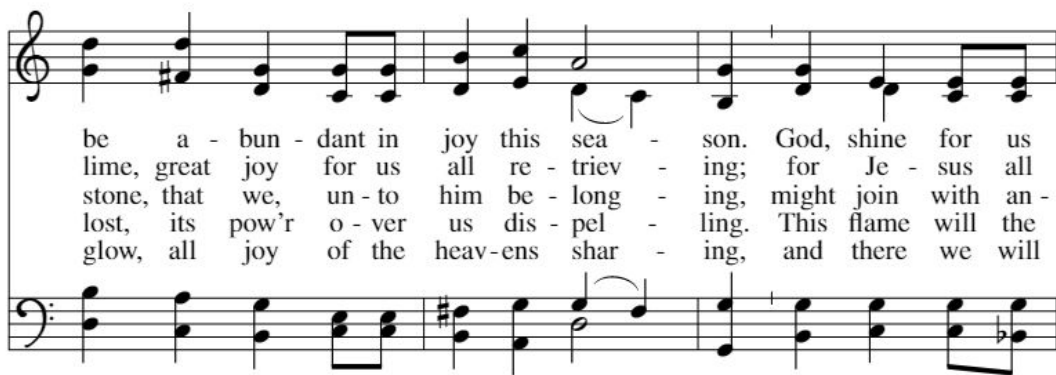
Stanza 4: Choir Stanza 5: All Sing



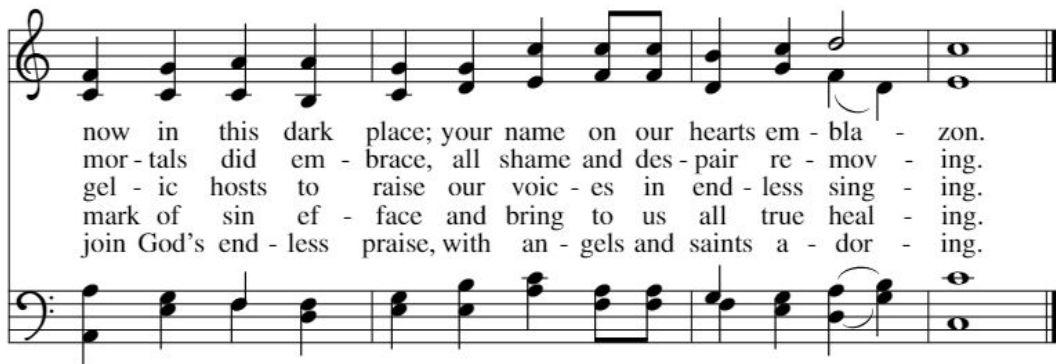
1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the
3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new
5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -
cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be
us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -



be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all
stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling. This flame will the
glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.
gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.
join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

*Words of Welcome & Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful
image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator,
true source of light and fountain of wisdom!
Pour forth your light upon our hearts,
dissipate the darkness which covers us,
that of sin and of ignorance.
Grant us a clear mind to understand,
a quick memory,
method and ease in learning,
the ability to comprehend,
and abundant grace in expressing ourselves.
Guide the beginning of our work,
direct its progress,
and bring it to a successful end.
This we ask through Jesus Christ,
true God and true human,
living and reigning with you
and the Creator, forever and ever.
Amen.

-Thomas Aquinas

The congregation may be seated.

Listen to the Saints, past and present

Reflection — “Canticle of the Sun”

attributed to Francis of Assisi

Anthem — “O Gladsome Light”

Aaron David Miller

*O Gladsome Light, O Grace of our Creator's face,
the eternal splendor wearing:
celestial, holy, blest, our Savior Jesus Christ,
joyful in your appearing.*

*As fades the day's last light, we see the lamps of night,
our common hymn outpouring;
O God of might unknown, you, the incarnate Son,
and Spirit blest, adoring.*

*To you the night belongs all praise of holy songs,
O Son of God, lifegiver,
you, therefore, O Most High, the world does glorify
and exalt forever.*

-Greek, 3rd century; tr. Robert S. Bridges

A Reading from Revelation — Revelation 7:9-17

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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

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

And 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, singing,

“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, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I 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.

For 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.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

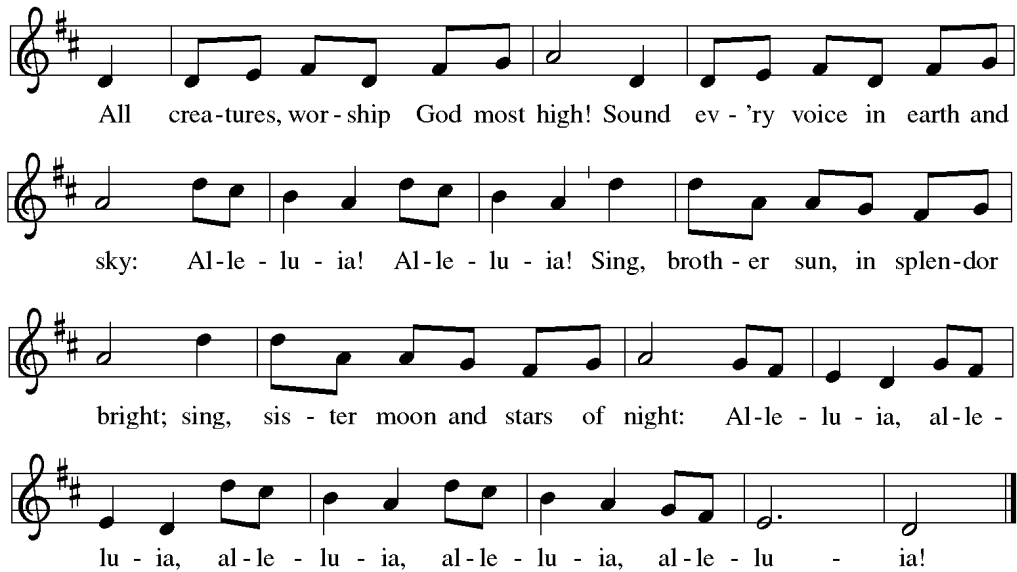
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Hear what the saints of old are saying to the saints today. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation — “All Creatures, Worship God Most High”**



All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

***Gospel — Matthew 5:1-12**

The Gospel of Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

*Blest are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blest are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blest are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they shall be satisfied.
Blest are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blest are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
Blest are those who are persecuted for righteousness, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blest are they, blest are they, blest are they. Amen.*

“Blessed are you when people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

Reflection — “Saint Patrick’s Breastplate”

attributed to Patrick of Ireland

See what love the Father has for us, that we are called the Children of God, and so we are.

Our future yet unknown, what we will be, untold;

Christ comes to take away sin, all those who know him will be saved.

Christ is pure, Christ is love, Christ is life unknown.

Do not be led astray. God who is righteous will save us.

God has called us to God’s own, and we are God’s.

See what love the Father has for us, that we are called the Children of God, and so we are.

-adapted from I John by Aaron David Miller

Prayer

God of grace,

The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace. Help us hear the fruits of prayer and faith, the fruits of love and service, and the fruit of your inner peace. **Amen.**

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Reflection

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn — “Give Thanks for Saints”**

At the end of the extended introduction, you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -



round seems bleak: on God’s good prom - ise they re - ly, so
mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their



while they live and when they die how force - ful -
true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God’s con -
hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that



ly they speak— the strong, who once were weak!
toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
cerns they own— God’s love through them is known.
we may say we share their pil - grim way.

***Prayers of Intercession**

As we recall the blessed ones who have gone before us, let us offer prayers to God our Creator.

For the angels and archangels and the spirits of the blessed, we give thanks.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For Mary, mother of Jesus, bearer of God, we give thanks.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the holy matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, we give you thanks.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all the saints and witnesses to the gospel, we give thanks.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place:

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages:

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our city and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all those we love:

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the thirsty, the poor and the meek, and all who are persecuted. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the dying and those who mourn the dead:

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In gratitude for our ancestors and all who have gone before us in faith:

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the names of those we honor in our hearts today and those who have died in the last year:

Shirley Strand, Sandra Brovold, Robert Samuelson, Glenn Stryker, Theresa Gault,
Gene Roemhildt, Helen Carter

Hear the names of those we have welcomed into our baptismal family in the last year:

Emma Wilmes, Connor Thompson

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for the triumph of Christ in the lives of your saints. Receive the prayers we offer this day and help us to run our course with faith, that we may swiftly come to your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

Offering

Music During Offering

“Prayer of St. Francis”

Setting by Aaron David Miller

Sanctuary Choir

God, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, let me sow pardon.

Where there's doubt, let me sow faith. Where there's despair, let me sow hope.

Where there is darkness, let me sow light. Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love.

It is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning we are pardoned,

and in dying we are born to eternal life. Amen.

-St. Francis of Assisi

*Offering Prayer

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

Saints share the meal together

***The Great Thanksgiving** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 152*

***“Holy, Holy, Holy”** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 153*

*Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

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.

We remember Christ, who taught us to pray with all the saints: **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 the Table

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table. All are welcome here.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be served at the rail this morning - the ushers will guide you forward.

Wheat bread and gluten free wafers are available; wine and grape juice are available.

As you finish receiving communion, you are invited to light a candle at the provided tables and take it with you to your seat for the final hymn in honor or in memory of a saint - past or present - in your life.

“Lamb of God” — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 154*

Communion Anthem — reprise of “Blest Are They”

Aaron David Miller

Jessica Brauer Echtenkamp, soloist; Handbell Ensemble

Blest are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blest are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blest are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they shall be satisfied.

Blest are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blest are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blest are those who are persecuted for righteousness, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The congregation is invited to join in singing:

Blest are they, blest are they,
blest are they. A - men

Hymn — no. 423

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Reflection — “At the River”

Setting by Aaron Copland

Ben Bruflat, trumpet

Prayer After Communion

Holy Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey,

strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,

and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

Sent as Saints to serve the world

*Sending Hymn — “For All the Saints”

At the end of the extended introduction, you are invited to stand in body or in spirit with your lighted candle, which you may extinguish after the hymn.

Stanza 1: All Sing Stanza 2: Low Voices, all at “Alleluia”

See next page for further instructions

Stanza 6: High Voices, all at “Alleluia” Stanza 7: All Sing



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.
6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the
7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; . . .
saints triumphant rise in bright array; the
gates of pearl streams in the countless host, . . .



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
King of glory passes on his way.
sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stanza 3: All, in harmony Stanza 4: All, in unison Stanza 5: Choir

3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,
4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

all are one in thee, for all are thine.
hearts are brave a - gain and arms are strong.
sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Benediction

May the past be a light on your present,
may the present be a radiant searchlight on your future,
may the future be a place of well-earned rest,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

-Olive Wrightman Gott

*Choral Benediction Response

Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*Dismissal

Beloved saints of God, go in peace to love and serve. **Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude — “Postlude on SINE NOMINE”

Setting by Aaron David Miller

Acknowledgements

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Announcements

- Fellowship refreshments will be served after worship by the Twaddle, Nixon, and Little Confirmation Families. Thank you!
- It's Holiday Grocery Voucher time! If you would like to give to this worthwhile cause please drop a check made to FLC with Holiday Voucher in the memo line before November 23. Help make a holiday meal possible for a needy family!
- The Second Annual Soup Cook-Off & Dessert Auction will be Nov 19 after worship in the dining hall. Entry forms are in the gathering space. Entries can be emailed or dropped off in the office.
- Please join us at 4:00 p.m. for an All Saints organ recital presented by Emily Bruflat and joined by Ben Bruflat on trumpet.

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Carol Peterson, Sarah Smith, Gretchen Bray, Bob and Kay Moline, Takhmina White, Allison Ellingson, and Jim Wendroth.
- We pray for the family of Gene Roemhildt, who died on Oct 15. The funeral and visitation will be on Nov 9 at FLC.
- We pray for the family of Helen Carter, who died on October 19. Her service was held here at FLC on Friday, Oct 27.

Today's Worship Assistants

Sanctuary Choir

Choir Accompanist

David Fienen

Soprano

Elaina Ballard

Aileen Bipes

Helen Ihrig

Sharon Malm

Betsy Paul

Alto

Jessica Brauer Echtenkamp

Rose Paddock

Rachel Ribar

Diane Stenson

Tenor

Nancy Nelson

Jim Stenson

Bass

John Bipes

John Holte

Doug Schuldt

Mike Stewart

Director of Music

Emily Bruflat

Trumpet

Ben Bruflat

Handbells

Betsy Bolint

Michelle Doose

Kim Engelhardt

Mary Long

Carrie Stelter

Nancy Timm

Audio/Video

Brett Petersen

Ella Twaddle

Readers

David Fienen

Judy Fienen

Pastor

Chris Culuris

Ushers

Jake Banks

Keith Stelter

Acolytes

Nihla Hoenke

Jaxton Hoenke

Greeters

Jake Banks

Michelle Doose

Communion Preparers

Dave Kennedy

Annalise Rivas

Communion Servers

Julie Johnson

Sharon Domeier

Cheryl Kautt

Bread Baker

Michelle Doose



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Lutheran Church
in America