

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 1, 2020 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Day
Order of Worship, including Communion and Scripture

If you would like to participate in Communion, please have your bread and juice (or their substitutes) ready before beginning worship.

Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the day:

We are to lift others up, and serve in humility those weighted down.

Call to Worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Pastor: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

People: **He led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.**

Pastor: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

Unison: **For he satisfied the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Merciful and faithful God, you sent to us the true Messiah, who teaches us the ways of the righteous and brings us into your presence forgiven and restored. Open our hearts, our ears, our minds to your nourishment by Word and sacrament, so that we might willingly obey and believe. Come Holy Spirit into us

Pastoral Prayer

Sacrament of the Holy Communion

In peace and love, in gratitude and faith, I invite you to have your bread (or chips, crackers, etc.) and juice (or water, wine, etc.) ready.

Let us come together to Christ's table.

*(we read together the texts in **BOLD**)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

O God, you are the creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image, to love and to be loved. You made a holy covenant with us and sent prophets to teach us your truth. When we turned away and were unfaithful, you kept faith with us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join in your praise, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Taking our form and flesh, Jesus came among us as a servant. He showed us the depth and power of your love. By his suffering, death, and resurrection you delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread. He gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts, we offer ourselves to you in service and praise as we keep the feast that Christ prepares:

[lifting the bread] Bread of Heaven,

[lifting the cup] Cup of Salvation,

[lifting bread and cup] Resurrection and Life.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit among us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people; one in the body, one in the blood, one with Christ, one in mission, one in ministry; in this place, in every place, in this world, and in the world to come.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. [Lord's Prayer]

Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Receiving

O God, we give you our thanks and praise. You feed us by your grace. You are with us in all our journeys. Give us courage and faith to serve you in all we do. Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Enable us to be faithful and fruitful servants of the gospel and ministry to which you have called us. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Come to Christ and offer your gifts, not as a burden, but as opportunity to give rest and renewal to those who yearn to know God's love. Thank you again for all the offerings and pledges you have sent in by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

O God, the giver of all gifts and gracious beyond measure, thank you for leading, comforting, and redeeming us countless ways. These gifts we bring are but a token of our thanks, seeds to be planted for the growing of your kingdom, in which we have sure and certain hope. In Jesus's name and way, we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

This day and every day, O taste and see that the Lord is good. Continue to stay firm. Hold on to your faith. Wash your hands, keep up with social distancing, and wear your masks. **Go vote!** I send you blessings in abundance.

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Scripture Readings – November 1, 2020

first reading -- JOSHUA 3:7-17

The LORD said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’” Joshua then said to the Israelites, “Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God.” Joshua said, “By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.”

When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

second reading – **1 THESSALONIANS 2:9-13**

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s word, which is also at work in you believers.

third reading – **MATTHEW 23:1-12**

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.