



FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH THE GOSPEL



November 2, 2025

Prelude *Prelude on “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”* organ

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Welcome

Pastor Andrew Vander Maas

Silent meditation

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

–John 10:28

All Saints’ Day occurs on November 1 and is observed on the first Sunday in November. This day draws our attention to the communion of saints as we express our gratitude for the faithfulness and gifts of those who have died.... -ReformedWorship.org

How does a Reformed Christian celebrate All Saints’ Day if we view all Christians as saints? It is a day that we can remember and praise God for those who have traveled before us, both those who have made great marks on the church and those who have made great marks on our lives [even if they died before they were born]. -“A Reformed View of All Saints’ Day” by Brian Dennert

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship Revelation 21:22–27

Elder Jerry Stutzman

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

* *God Himself Is With Us* Trinity Hymnal 382

Invocation concluding with the Prayer for All Saints' Day, responsively

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!”**

Let us give thanks for brothers and sisters in Christ to whom God has granted rest from their labors.

We remember family and friends who have gone before us.

Those whose lives were long or short, and those who lived only within the womb.

We remember those of our congregation you called home over the past two years:

Wilma Greening (12-30-23)

Nella Kreuzer (4-24-24)

Ray Fuller (7-15-24)

Carolyn De Haan (9-6-24)

Deann Stankey (12-13-24)

Dan Vander Ark (1-11-25)

Eric Karloski (1-11-25)

Joey Rooks (1-18-25)

Denny Arndt (3-24-25)

Bert Froysland (5-1-25)

Chuck Stankey (5-5-25)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for these your servants whom we remember today. Bring us, with them, to those things no eye has seen, nor ear heard, which you have prepared for those who love you.

Give us faith to look beyond touch and sight, and seeing that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, enable us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Bring us at last to your eternal peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession Romans 16:19b-20

...I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness II Timothy 4:18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

8:30 service *On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 5- year-olds are invited to the foyer to join Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*

11:15 service *Church bags are available in the foyer for 4- to 5-year-olds who need some quiet activities during the sermon.*

* He Will Hold Me Fast

text, Ada Habershon & Matt Merker
music, Matt Merker



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me
2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me



fast;
fast;
fast;
when the tempt - er would pre - vail,
pre - cious in his ho - ly sight,
just - ice has been sat - is - fied;

He will hold me fast. I could nev - er keep my
 He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be
 He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to end - less

hold Through life's fear - ful path; for my love is
 lost; His prom - is - es shall last; bought by Him at
 life, He will hold me fast 'til our faith is

oft - en cold; He must hold me fast.
 such a cost, He will hold me fast.
 turned to sight, when He comes at last!

sing in parts
 He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

for my Sav-ior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

I John 2:15-17; 3:7-14; 5:3-5, 18-21

^{2:15} Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

^{3:7} Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

^{5:3} For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

^{5:18} We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon The Darkness Without
Discerning the Darkness

Pastor Michael Anderson

Denying the Darkness

Destroying the Darkness

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

** I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light*

Kathleen Thomerson



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.

2. I want to see - the bright-ness of God.

3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ;



I want to fol - low Je - - - sus.

I want to look at Je - - - sus.

I want to be with Je - - - sus.



God sent the stars to give light to the world. The

Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path, and

When we have run with pa - tience the race, we



star of my life is Je - - - sus.

show me the way to the Fa - - - ther.

shall know the joy of Je - - - sus.



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - - - sus. 1966

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Trays will be passed through the rows. The bread served is gluten free, and the grape juice served is pasteurized. Hold the bread or cup until all are served and we'll partake together.

During the passing of the bread *Trio* organ

by Josef Rheinberger

During the passing of the cup *We Will Feast* congregation

Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore



We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our



hearts re - stored. "He has done great things," we will say to - ge - ther.



We will feast and weep no more.

1. We will not be
2. In the dark of
3. Ev - 'ry vow we've



burned - by the fire. He is the Lord our
night _____ be - fore the dawn, my soul be not a -
bro - ken and be - trayed, You are the faith ful



God. We are not con - sumed _____ by the flood. Up -
fraid. For the prom - ised morn - ing, O how long? O
One. And _____ from the gar - den to the grave, bind



held, pro - tect - ed, gath - ered up.
God of Ja - cob, be my strength.
us to - geth - er, bring sha - lom.

Prayer of Thanksgiving spoken together

O God our Father, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully re-deemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering unto you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Prayers of the People

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (888) 793-1604

Offertory: Psalm 150: Praise Ye the Lord organ

by César Franck, arr. Rick Parks

Alleluia!

O praise ye the Lord in His holy temple;
O praise ye the Lord, Who dwelleth in high.
Praise the Lord in His might, and in His noble acts;
Praise the Lord in His glory and in His majesty.

Praise the Lord in the sound of the trumpet,
Praise the Lord on the lute and the harp.
Praise the Lord in the dances, the timbrels and the dance;
Praise Him upon the strings and praise Him on the pipe.

Praise the Lord upon the well tuned cymbals;
Praise the Lord on the cymbals well tuned and loud.
Every creature on earth, everything that hath breath,
Praise ye the Lord, O Praise ye the Lord.

*** The God We Love (Nicene Creed chorus)**

by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson
& Matt Redman

All glo - ry to the Fa - ther now, all

hon - or to the Son. And praise the Spir - it,

now and al-ways. This is the God we love.

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*** Benediction**

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward and wave the colorful flags as we sing our closing Amen song.

*** Let the Church Say Amen**

Let the church say "Amen."

Let the church say "Amen."

God has spoken, let the Church say "Amen."

*** Postlude** *Toccata on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* organ

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Worship musicians

Esther Ratajeski, song leader
Jacob Lahman, song leader

Susan Guerra, piano
Heidi Snyder, organ