

## **Sunday Worship on November 2nd, 2025**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

### **Sunday Order of Worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 688 As water to the thirsty
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 475 I am the church! You are the church!
- Prayer for children

#### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Luke 6:20-31
- Second reading: Psalm 149 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Ephesians 1:11-23
- Sermon: **The inheritance of the Saints (154<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**
- Praise song BOP 371 Love divine, all loves excelling
- Communion
- Prayer after communion

#### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 461 Be thou my vision

#### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.

**They shall mount up with wings as eagles;**

They shall run and not be weary;

**They shall walk and not faint.**

In the company of all God's saints and pilgrims, come and worship.

**We come with prayer and praise to find our strength renewed!**

### **Praise song – BOP 688 As water to the thirsty**

#### **Prayer of Adoration**

Ancient of days, God of our everyday lives, we praise you for your guidance and care in every generation, and for the example of those who have gone before us, who taught us your name and brought us to faith.

In the great mystery of your love, we know these saints gather to praise and adore you for your wisdom that instructs, your grace that redeems, your Holy Spirit who guides us, and for the comfort and hope we claim in the knowledge that neither death nor life can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**Gracious God, you have been faithful to us in every generation.**

**Yet we confess that we are not so faithful to you.**

**We shrink from costly discipleship and we seek cheap grace.**

**Forgive our fleeting enthusiasms and our shallow commitments.**

**And guide us always with the love and mercy we witness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:)

**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.**

**Words of Assurance**

Sisters and brothers, we are in our faithful and merciful God.

While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. Be at peace with God, be at peace with yourself, and be at peace with one another.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

**Praise song – BOP 475 I am the church! You are the church!**

**Prayer for the children**

**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Luke 6:20-31
- Second reading: Psalm 149 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Ephesians 1:11-23

**“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

**Sermon: The inheritance of the Saints**

Today is our church's 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as well as All Saints' Sunday. The first ancestors were wise to choose All Saints' Sunday as the first Sunday of the new church. That's because, at the

end of the day, in the eyes of God, we are all saints because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ; and that is our true identity.

So, let us celebrate the faithfulness of our God for our church for 154 years, and the inheritance of the saints from the ancestors of our church and from all the saints in the history of the world.

Inheritance is something we give to the next generation. Legacy is something that we hand down to our descendants.

When we say, saints leave inheritance, we feel like they achieve something and leave it to us. Especially, today, anniversary of our church and All Saints' Sunday, we feel like they leave their faith to us. That is right.

However, the inheritance of the saints did not begin with their own faith.

**V11, "In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,"**

The inheritance of our faith began with God's plan, not any saints from the history. The predecessors before us did not build this church by chance. They were part of God's big eternal plan. We all belong to a divine story that began before the foundation of the world.

On this anniversary of our church, we don't celebrate our achievement, but God's faithfulness and sovereign grace that planted HIS church and sustained HIS church. God is the Author of his own story and we are small chapters in God's unfolding story.

Our inheritance of the saints is not this church building or long-lasting history, but it is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, our true inheritance, is guaranteed and promised to us by the Holy Spirit.

**V13-14 (NIV), "When you believed, you were marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance."**

The Holy Spirit is not only a gift, but he also is a guarantee. He assures what's to come. He's like a down payment of his gift. When we make a down payment, this means that the rest of the payment will follow.

It is the promise of something to come.

When we say the Holy Spirit assures, it means that he keeps his church alive across generations. The Holy Spirit comforts his church, the Holy Spirit guides his church, and the Holy Spirit empowers his church. Even though we feel weak or small, the Holy Spirit doesn't change his plan to support and sustain his church. The Spirit reminds us that we still belong to Jesus Christ. The same Spirit that filled the saints who founded this church 154 years ago is among us today faithfully. So, the Holy Spirit is empowering us to live faithfully in our time.

**V18-19, "so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19**

**and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.”**

The apostle Paul does not pray for wealth or comfort. He prays that believers may see how rich they already are in Christ.

**Are you rich in Christ?** What does this mean to be rich in Christ?

There is a hymn called **“Count your blessings.”**

The lyrics go like this.

*“When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one; count your blessings, see what God hath done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; count your many blessings, see what God hath done.”*

When we think about what God has done for us, and give thanks to him. Then we will be able to see how deeply God is involved in our daily lives.

When you experience hardship, remember what God has done. Make a list of God’s work in your life.

Every morning, I write prayer. Before writing prayer, I list few things I am thankful for. I do it every day. I can find few things every day. This is a great brain exercise as well as this is one of the best ways to adopt a positive mindset. If you focus on what God has done in your life, it is a good way to re-connect your heart to God’s. When you want to restore the relationship with God, write down what you are thankful because of God.

Why don’t we **take 1 minute to think about 3 things you are grateful for God?** Can you name 3?

I am grateful for the precious blood of Jesus Christ for me. I have life. I have hope. // I am grateful for this Sunday worship. There are people who sincerely seek God’s presence. I’m inspired. // Also, my personal situations: School, family, health, support groups, etc.

After worship, when we have refreshment, it might be a good topic to talk about. If it’s possible, share what you are grateful for as you enjoy each other.

Paul focuses on how God blessed his people. Through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, he moved his people from darkness to light. We were under the power of death, but now we are the heirs of God’s kingdom! Our identity has been transformed from orphans to the children of God. How blessed are we!

As we repeat this exercise of counting our blessings we have, we will be able to find out that we have more things to be thankful for. Day by day, we will be able to find more.

Have the hope to experience the rich and abundant love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Hope is not a wishful thinking, it's a confidence in God's faithfulness.

Let us open our eyes to see what God is doing in our lives and find the blessings God is pouring down upon us. It will fill us with more life, so that we can hand down our faith and the blessings from God to our next generations.

**V22-23, "And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body"**

The inheritance handed down to us is **Jesus Christ, the HEAD of the church**. Jesus Christ is not just part of our church, he is the HEAD of the church. Every generation, every saint, every congregation finds its unity and purpose in Jesus Christ, the HEAD of the church.

Leadership, people, even buildings change. But, there is one thing never changes. That is, **THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH IS JESUS CHRIST**.

This is important because Christ is the focal point of church's existence. We have legacy of faith because of Jesus Christ. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit because of Jesus Christ. We can live for the glory of God because of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our foundation and the root of our individual lives as well as his church.

St. Andrew's Aurora has received a sacred inheritance. It's not money, land, or building. We received faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ.

We are heirs of the saints who believed before us, and we now bear the **torch** for those who will come after us. <<**PIC – baton – torch**>>

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us live as people of hope, sealed by the Holy Spirit, united in Christ until the day when all the saints gather together in glory, and our inheritance is complete in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us continue our race, so we can hand down our faith to our next generations until St. Andrew's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and so on.

As the Head of the church, Jesus Christ is shepherding his own church all the time, and in all generations.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

**Praise song 371 Love divine, all loves excelling**

**Communion**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, this is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here, we come not as strangers, but as one family — a people shaped by grace through the generations. For 154 years, God has been faithful to this church, nourishing the saints who came before us, and calling us now to continue their faith and witness.

Here, the weary find rest, the broken find healing, and the hopeful find strength for the journey ahead. Come, just as you are — with gratitude for what has been and trust for what is yet to come.

For it is Christ who welcomes you and fills you again with His Spirit of life and renewal.

At this table, we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. Here, God's love gathers all generations — past, present, and future — and we are reminded that we belong to a great communion of saints. Here, God says, "I have been faithful through the years, and I am still doing a new thing among you." Now, let us confess our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

### **The Apostles' Creed (BOP 539)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say BOLD print together)

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Holy and gracious God, from generation to generation, you have been our dwelling place. Before a single stone of this church was laid, you were already at work — calling, gathering, and blessing your people.

We thank you for the saints who came before us, for their faith, their prayers, their generosity, and their witness that shaped this community of grace. We thank you for those who carried the gospel through hardships, for those who dreamed, built, served, and loved.

Today, as we gather at this table, we join with them and with all the saints in heaven and on earth, singing our praise to you.

**(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: God of mercy and grace, blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, you gathered a people for yourself across generations. In him, the broken were restored, and the weary found hope. On the cross, he carried our sin; in the resurrection, he opened the way to life. By his Spirit, he continues to renew your Church — shaping us day by day, just as you shaped those who came before us in faith. So, remembering his words, his hands, his love poured out for us, and the witness of the saints who have gone before, we proclaim in mystery:

**P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

L: Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine. As we eat and drink, renew us in the faith of those who built, served, and prayed before us. Strengthen what is weak, rekindle what has grown dim, and fill us with your Holy Spirit to live as your faithful people in this generation. Make us one with Christ, one with the saints in glory, and one in ministry to all the world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

**Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE**

(The minister breaks bread in the presence of the people, saying:)

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said,

“This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(The minister may pour wine into the cup, lifting it while saying:)

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

**(Distribution of the elements)**

Every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (Take some time for personal prayer)

**Prayer for the people:**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for calling us your own, for giving us an inheritance that can never fade or be taken away. You have placed your mark upon us, the seal of the Holy Spirit, to remind us that we belong to you, now and forever.

Lord, some of us come today with gratitude, other with questions or quiet burdens. You know every heart. Where there is discouragement, bring your hope. Where there is

loneliness, bring your comforting presence. Where there is uncertainty, speak peace and wisdom.

We lift up our church to your hands, o Lord. We thank you for the saints who came before us, for their faith, their service, and their witness. Now, as we continue their story, fill us again with the same Spirit that strengthened them. Help us to live not as people who have lost something, but as those who have already received everything in Christ.

May your power work through us to bless our families, our community, and this city we love.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

Friends, everything we have, our breath, our time, our gifts, comes from the generous hand of God. Today, as we bring our offering, we respond to his love with gratitude. Let us give not out of duty or habit, but out of joy for all the God has given us in Christ Jesus, our eternal inheritance.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

*(BOP #321, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. Vs. 1)*

**Offering prayer:**

Generous God, we bring these gifts to you with thankful hearts. Use them, and use us, to build your kingdom, to share your gospel, and to bless those who are in need. May our giving reflect our trust in you, and our joy in belonging to your family. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 461 Be thou my vision**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

As we prepare to be sent into the world, let us remember who we are. We are God's saints. We are chosen, loved, and redeemed. We carry within us the hope of his calling and the riches of his glorious inheritance. Wherever we go this week, may we walk with confidence that Christ is in us, and that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in our lives today.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.