

Proclamation of God's Word

NO. 2023-45
November 5th, 2023

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Revelation 21:1-5 (See Insert)**

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *Jesus With a Hanky* Rev. Cathy Hamblin

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison (The Book of Worship)
We bless your holy name, O God, for all your servants who,
having finished their course, now rest from their labors. Give us
grace to follow the example of their steadfastness and faithfulness,
to your honor and glory; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*After each prayer request:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our Prayer.*

PRAYER SONG UMH 487
This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

We empty our pockets, trusting you, O God. We empty our selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We give because you have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in your service because you have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you mind which so powerfully demonstrates your love. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Marching to Zion* UMH 733 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Cathy Hamblin

***POSTLUDE** Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

Worship coordinated by Rev. Cathy Hamblin and Pastor Jenny Lee

 **Upper St. Croix Parish
United Methodist Church**

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

**23rd Sunday After Pentecost
All Saints Sunday**



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICES:

*9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
(9:15 AM, Sunday School)
10:00 AM at Atlas (10:15 AM, Sunday School)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com
Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com
Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com
Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
November 5th, 2023
23rd Sunday After Pentecost
All Saints Sunday

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

Peace be with you!

(Waive your hands at one another)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive (Isaiah 25:6-10a)

On this mountain, the LORD of heavenly forces will prepare for all peoples a rich feast, a feast of choice wines, of select foods rich in flavor, of choice wines well refined. He will swallow up on this mountain the veil that is veiling all peoples, the shroud enshrouding all nations.

He will swallow up death forever. The LORD God will wipe tears from every face; he will remove his people's disgrace from off the whole earth, for the LORD has spoken. They will say on that day, "Look! This is our God, for whom we have waited—and he has saved us!

This is the LORD, for whom we have waited; let's be glad and rejoice in his salvation!" The LORD's hand will indeed rest on this mountain.
Amen!

***DEDICATING HYMN** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*
UMH 712 (vs. 1 & 2)

LIGHTING CANDLES IN HONOR OF ALL SAINTS

(When Pastor names, you may come forth and light a candle, which has your loved one, or Lay leader help to light it.)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Jesus Christ, you know before we speak, that as individuals and a fellowship we have had to say farewell too often. As we gather

today to worship you, we humbly request that you strengthen our memories of those who have inspired us, challenged us, lifted us up, bore us in their arms, taught us the gospel, broke bread with us, and served with us in the great mission of your kingdom. On this All Saints Day may we celebrate, with hope and a few tears, the lives from which we have been separated, but which we shall be reunited again someday. These things we pray in your great name. Amen

Sacrament of Holy Communion

PREPARATION SONG *Holy Ground* TFWS 2272

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION Rev. Cathy Hamblin

CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH 13-14 (See insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING (RECEIVING) THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items: Bread, eggs, milk, cheese, fresh vegetables (carrots, potatoes), fresh fruit (apples, oranges), canned meat, dish soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels. They appreciate any and all donations.

We will be collecting Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.

Deadline 11/12/23



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC



'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"

We will be collecting Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child
Deadline is 11/12.



We will also be collecting winter clothing supplies for the "Sox Box"

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Buying Thanksgiving Food Gift Cards for Families in Need!

Thank you for your support!

Ministers

All God's People

Pastor Jenny Lee (On Vacation)



Central:

Preach
Pianist
Liturgist
Acolyte(s)
Fellowship
Counter
Cleaning
Sunday School
Snow Removal

Rev. Cathy Hamblin
Toni Koons
Volunteer Needed
Willow Nyland
Judy Lien
Volunteer Needed
Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

Atlas:

Preach
Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Cleaning
Sunday School

Rev. Cathy Hamblin
Sharon Asp
Sue Olson
Cheryl Olson
Volunteer Needed
Colleen Adams-Schween

St. Croix Falls:

Preach
Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Money Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Fellowship

Rev. Cathy Hamblin
Sharon Asp
Jim Andrews
Kathy Gionis
Peter Gionis
Lynn Hanson
Karen Sciacca
Karen 1st Sunday

Breakthrough Prayers: Please pray for those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace in the middle east area and all over the world!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.
Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 4) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

This Week's Calendar:

Today: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost.
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

- 11/5:
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (at 9:15am, Sunday School)
10:00 am Atlas (at 10:15 am, Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls (**No Zoom**)
- 11/8:
1:00 pm UMW Meeting (G)
6:00-8:00 pm Youth Group (G)
- 11/10:
1:30 pm Ad Council Meeting (A)
5:30-8:00 pm Youth Group Family Worship, Dinner & Game Night
- 11/11: 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)
- 10/26-11/12: Pastor Jenny's Vacation (Thank you all ministers)
- 11/12: Veteran's Sunday-Barbara Loomis Leading Services

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

We are not aware of any birthday's or anniversaries this week. If you notice we are missing a birthday or anniversary in the weekly bulletin, please let Pastor Jenny or Colleen Norenberg know. We will update our records. Thank you! Have a blessed week!

Next Sunday (November 12th)

VOLUNTEERS

Central:

Preach	Barbara Loomis
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson & Charlie Glonek
Sunday School	Volunteer Needed
Snow Removal	Volunteer Needed

Atlas:

Preach	Barbara Loomis
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Josie Grimes

St. Croix Falls:

Preach	Barbara Loomis
Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Kathy Gionis
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Lynn Hanson
Flowers	Karen Sciacca
Fellowship	Admin Council



Upcoming Events



- 10/26-11/12 Pastor Jenny's Vacation
- 11/12 Veterans Sunday
- 11/15 6:30 pm Harmony Choir Concert
5:30-8 pm Youth Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his
disciples,

and said: “take, eat; this is my body which 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.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of
faith.

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

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts
of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of
Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed
by his blood.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 21:1-5

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the
first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the
holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice
from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for[e] the first things have passed away.”

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all
things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy
and true.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen



We lift up the following loved ones who have passed on this last year...some were listed at multiple churches; we only show them once on this list.

ATLAS

John Adams
Karen Lammers
Don Schween

CENTRAL

Art Bistram
Mary Ann Hess
Louise Klawitter
Mark Loomis

ST. CROIX FALLS

Lorna Andrewson
Dick Benjamin
Rick Davidsavor
Louis Dennis
Tom Dowd
Charlotte Erickson
James Erickson
Brian Hanson
Zach Herpst
Don Hurley
Judy Jackson
Naomi McLean

Living the Word-"Jesus with a Hanky"

Pastor Cathy L Hamblin- All Saints Day

My Uncle John, who is 8 years older than me, was much like an older brother as we grew up on the same farm. A few years ago, in September, for my birthday, my dear Uncle John found several pictures of me around age 5 to share with the world on Face-book. The pictures came from an album he received when my Grandma Nana died twenty five years ago. I asked to borrow the book so we could all enjoy this family treasure.

It was lots of fun, and one whole section was 8x10 photographs of the building that is now the Bakken Young Funeral Home in River Falls. The pictures were from 1958, when that building was being built as the 'New First Covenant Church.' In one of the pictures my grandfather, Newton Pearson was helping put the wood flooring down in the Sanctuary.

Newton was a dairy farmer, one of the original directors of the River Falls State Bank and a deacon in his church. He was someone who was committed to his family, his community and his church. Life in those days was family, community and church. He is one of the saints of my life, along with Grandma Nana and now both of my parents who have passed on from this life.

Every year on all Saints day, I remember them along with others, and their commitment to God through the church. There is a great cloud of witnesses that have influenced who we are. I invite you to take a moment now in silent prayer and make a mental list of the saints in your life...

Many committed Christians have come before us, whatever church we grew up in. Two thousand years of the church. From the beginning, there have been many struggles, many splits, but the church as a whole has remained because of the saints, the committed Christians, who continued to follow the teachings of Jesus.

The Church is not going to end in our lifetimes, but we can keep it strong by doing the one thing that Christ emphasized: "Loving One Another." We begin by continuing to teach the stories so that the next generations can know who Christ is and what he came for.

We will all pass on some day, but while we still have breathe the church still needs committed folks; committed to family, community and church; to pray for each other, to come together 'with and for' each other, to share our gifts, to work together and to tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ and the church; a place where we can be a part of the hub of ministries where we are actively serving others.

Did you notice that both of the scriptures spoke of Jesus wiping away every tear. It doesn't say that Jesus stopped the tears – until he comes again – it says in both scriptures, that he wiped the tears away. In this human life we will have tears.

Sometimes they come in torrents, sometimes with sobs, sometimes just falling one at a time. They are never convenient and often not predictable. I have told many people in my time as a pastor that there is no right or wrong way to grieve a loss. You can't make grief happen when you want and you can't stop it when it comes. Yet God uses tears to help heal us both physically and spiritually.

God also knows our pain and grieves with us. Jesus then comes to wipe up the tears as we grieve with God. For all of the saints who have died, there is no more pain and no more tears. We should always be able to find support through the church. Sometimes we are called to be Jesus with a hanky for someone else.

On my wedding day, which was not a day of grieving, I was already over tired as the day began and when the time came for my dad to walk me down the aisle, the excitement caused me to burst into tears. My poor dad, can you imagine, the music had started and I was sobbing. He firmly took my arm and said to me - "Buck up girl." My father's strength and encouragement helped me, and somehow, I pulled myself together for the ceremony.

Sometimes we can do that...sometimes we just can't. Yet Jesus is there for us in some form, if we can focus through the tears and turn toward him. That is why we serve and receive Holy Communion – to remember to keep turning toward Christ. And after we have experienced that compassion and love, we can turn toward someone else and be for them 'Jesus with a hanky.'

How many times in TV shows or movies have we seen someone crying – stereotypically, the female – and the person, usually the strong male with them, pulls out a hanky. It is taken and the eyes are dabbed as the hanky owner /supporter smiles sympathetically. Then the hanky is moved to the nose and the owner looks on in horror as the hanky becomes covered with stuff other than tears.

Often we are called upon to listen and wipe some tears, but there is risk in offering the hanky. It brings us further into a relationship as we now have to deal with the stuff that is more than we planned for. To be Jesus with a hanky means risking beyond the tears. It means offering to help another carry their baggage of hurt and grief, and in the healing to feel their blessings, all the way to heaven.

Isaiah gives us these words: *"On this mountain, the Lord of heavenly forces will prepare for all the people a rich feast...and choice wines."* Today is a time to remember the saints, to remember Christ and then to move on with our lives until the time when we are with them. Isaiah was a prophet and saw and wrote enough of the future to recognize that this life was not the end for us and that God would continue to invite us to the feast. He predicted the feast and the one to come, a Savior.

We are here also today to celebrate who we are together, how we can make a difference for others because of the one who came to teach and redeem us and so we can give that good news to others. We await a new heaven and a new earth, but each day is a part of that newness.

God does dwell with us and we are God's people. Jesus still is here to wipe away our tears. The former things: former times, former issues, former problems, have all gone away at some point and time has renewed everything around us. The feast we still share, begs us to remember, knowing that it is bitter sweet to remember those who are now gone.

Yet through Jesus we can also recognize that we have all been moved and changed because of the presence of those saints in our lives. They have helped form who we are and will always be a part of us in some way.

Then we have to move forward with who we have become and all that God has before us. It is a time to commit our new selves through the church to the family, the community and the church. So, as the earth revolves it becomes new once again.

There is now a new, new First Covenant Church in River Falls, because the old, new First Covenant Church grew too small for its ministries. Part of my family is still committed to ministry there.

My parents and grandparents: I remember each of them every year on All Saints Day. So we pause this morning to light a candle, possibly with a tear or two, as we remember those who have made us who we are today.

And then we will share a feast, the sacrament of Holy Communion, to remember Christ, who is with us to wipe away our tears, and then we need to step forward, committed in ministry to be there for others and also for the future of the church. How do we begin a new chapter, building on the story of our past, but beginning to create a new future?

Well, we are not done 'being the church' but for today it is time to remember, celebrate with a Holy feast and then we will move on together. *"We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion. We're marching upward to Zion the beautiful City of God."*