

## The Holy Gospel

*Matthew 5:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## The Apostles’ Creed (p. 192)

## The Hymn of the Day: 676 “Behold a Host, Arrayed in White”

## The Homily

*Offerings are not gathered during Service today. While Pastor Messer prepares the Table for the Holy Supper, you may spend time prayerfully preparing to receive the Blessed Sacrament (you may wish to read through Luther’s “Christian Questions . . .” on pp. 329-330). If you wish to leave an offering, you may do so by placing it in the plate by the door as you depart after Service.*

## The Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## The Service of the Sacrament

*(Communicants are to be in full confessional fellowship with the LCMS)*

## The Preface - Agnus Dei (pp. 194-198)

## The Distribution

## The Nunc Dimittis - Benediction (pp. 199-202)

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

# The Feast of Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth



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# The Feast of Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth

## DIVINE SERVICE 3, PAGE 184

### The Service of Preparation

*(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)*

**Confession and Absolution** (pp. 184-185)

### The Service of the Word

#### The Introit

*Ps. 33:1; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

Let us all rejoice in the LORD,  
celebrating a feast in honor of all the saints,  
**at whose solemnity the angels rejoice,  
and give praise to the Son of God. Alleluia!**

Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous:  
for praise is comely for the upright!  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,  
celebrating a feast in honor of all the saints,  
**at whose solemnity the angels rejoice,  
and give praise to the Son of God. Alleluia!**

**The Kyrie** (p. 186)

**The Gloria in Excelsis** (pp. 187-189)

**The Salutation and Collect of the Day** (p. 189)

O Almighty God, who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, including Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth, faithful parents of the forerunner of Thy Son, whom we honor and remember this day, that we may come to the unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love Thee; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever.

**The First Reading**

*Revelation 7:2-17*

<sup>2</sup>Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

<sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the

sons of Israel:

<sup>5</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, <sup>6</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, <sup>7</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, <sup>8</sup>12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

#### The Gradual

*Ps. 34:9-10b*

O fear the LORD, ye his saints,  
for there is no want to them that fear him.

**They that seek the LORD**

**shall not want any good thing.**

#### The Epistle

*1 John 3:1-3*

<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

#### The Alleluia and Verse

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**