

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – All Saints Sunday

### Introduction to the Day

On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come. Jesus denounces the scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like all the Saints before her, has given all that she is, and has.

### Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables  
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves and have  
treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,  
to welcome those you send,  
and to treasure mercy and justice.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways,  
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,  
forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake  
and remembers them no more.  
Lift up your heads and your hearts.  
Yours is the kingdom of God.  
**Amen.**

Gathering Song

“For All the Saints”

#422 vs. 1,3,7

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, strengthen our trust in your promises, bring all the world to share in the treasures that come your Son, and bring us to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lesson – Isaiah 25:6-9

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

## Children's Message

### Gospel – Mark 12:38-44

<sup>38</sup>As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

### Message

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

This Sunday we celebrate All Saints Day. It is a day in the church calendar to remember the saints who have died in the last year. We hear their names in the prayers. The bell will toll. And we will fondly remember the lives they lived. In that remembering we are reminded of the promises that we heard in their funerals. Promises that echo those spoken in their baptism.

The promise of eternal life.

How do we remember people?

We remember stories. So often at funeral lunches, fellowship halls are filled with laughter as stories are fondly shared.

We remember smells. Smells of things baked in years gone by often trigger memories of those we miss.

So often, whatever the trigger is, we are brought back to wherever it is that these memories took place, and for a moment we pause to remember those that we miss.

But this is more than just simply remembering stories.

In memorializing someone who has died, there are two directions that preachers will often go.

- 1) Stick to the script of preaching Christ crucified, died, and risen for us. No matter what. That is what it is about.
- 2) Share stories of the life the deceased lived, conjuring up memories for those who have gathered.

But, there is a third way. If we truly believe the promises that were made in our baptism, and that we carry with us the light of Christ that was given us in our baptism, and that all that we do is done in glory to God, then wouldn't it be true that all of the stories that are fondly shared, good, bad, or otherwise, point to the promise of Christ crucified, died, and risen for us?

With all of this you may very well be wondering how the widow who gave her two copper coins relates to the theme of All Saints Sunday.

If we go back just a bit, we will remember that Jesus has just told the scribes that the greatest commandment is to “love the Lord your God with every fiber of your being and love your neighbor as yourself.” This is a continuation of the theme in Mark's Gospel where Jesus continually points to the lowly and the outcast as prime examples of living out lives of faith, and he does so in contrast to the ones that we would expect to see this from.

Is this example of the widow, giving from her poverty “everything she had, all she had to live on,” the prime example of “loving the Lord your God with every fiber of her being, and loving her neighbor as herself?”

As it turns out this is a beautiful metaphor for what it means to be Saints.

You see, Martin Luther is famous for stating that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. That we live our lives in this duality of living in the promise of eternal life in our baptism, continually washed and reborn children of God, while constantly struggling with sin, death, and the power of the devil.

But it is true. We are living Saints. Not just in our death, but right here and now.

The story of the widow, while it makes for a very easy to preach sermon on financial stewardship, is even better for a sermon on being good stewards of all that we are and have to offer.

We are called to live lives devoted to God, that give glory to God. Not only when we have the time or energy to, when we have that extra to offer, but always!

We are saints...not because of what we have done, but because of what God in Jesus Christ has done for us. The widow knew it. We need to hear it.

Thanks be to God. Amen

**Song of the Day**                      **“Shall We Gather at the River”**                      **#423**

### **Apostle’s Creed**

### **Prayers**

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away. Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way (*especially Peyton, Kathy Smith, Matt Miller, Bob Hodges, Bob Kries, Jim and Sandy Nelson, Joe Christensen, Bill and Bonnie Kuehn, Steve Bradford, David Gunderson, Cassie Skinner, Keith Franson*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. We remember now those from the Good Shepherd Family that have died in the past year: Donald Durch - Dorothy Sanders - Shirley Johnson - Helen Gibson - Richard Dean - Helen Hanson - Delmar Sloop - Conrad Szymoniak - Carole Mahaffey - Thomas Homes – and all others whom we remember now. Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

Holy God,  
the earth is yours and everything in it,  
yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.  
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine,  
and strengthen us to be your body for the world  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.**

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, “This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, “this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me.”

Once you’ve taken the elements say, “Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Communion Prayer**

**Sending Song**

**“We Are Called”**

**#720 vs. 1,3**

**Blessing**

God, the beginning and the end,  
who has written your name in the book of life,  
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace  
from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

Led on by the saints before us,  
go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements:**

**Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night!**

### **Operation Christmas Child**

For those who have taken a shoe box to fill, be sure to return it to the church by Nov. 17.

### **Generosity**

The Outreach Team recently made a delivery to Roosevelt School for items they were in need of: healthy snacks and scissors for the classrooms. They secured a Thrivent Grant and made sure the teachers were well stocked.

Our Quilters have been very busy and teamed up with the Outreach Team to get 25 quilts to our local Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization - where no kid sleeps on the floor.