

All Saints Sunday
November 6th, 2022

Introduction to the Day

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our

God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who redeems us in Christ Jesus,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.**

**We have ignored voices
that call for your justice.**

**We have neglected actions
that witness to your righteousness.**

**We have spoken and acted
in ways that disrupt your beloved community.**

**We truly repent of things we have done
and left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Restore our troubled spirits,
so that we may live in newness,
follow the way of the Spirit,
and build up the body of Christ.**

Amen.

Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out,
and restores us to life through the death
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all
your sins,

in the name of the Father,

and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn “For All the Saints”

#422 Vs. 1,3,7

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

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, and 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.**

Reading: Psalm 149

¹ Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

² Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

³ Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,

⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,

⁸ to bind their kings with fetters
and their nobles with chains of iron,

⁹ to execute on them the judgment decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel: Luke 6:20-31

²⁰Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

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

This All Saints Sunday, a day when we pause to remember those in our Faith Community who died in the last year, we hear a Gospel text that is full of hope, but also a reminder of the world we are called to strive for here and now.

First, blessed are you who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, reviled, and defamed on account of Jesus; for yours is the Kingdom of God, you will be filled, you will laugh, and your reward will be great in heaven.

We pause hearing this reminder of God's kingdom. We are reminded that God's Kingdom is where God's will is realized. It is God's will that there is no hunger, shame, poverty, sadness, stigma, and any other pains of this world. We are comforted in knowing, clinging to the faith, that the loved ones we pause to remember are right now experiencing the expansive grace of God's loving embrace.

Those we mourn, those Saints whose life we celebrate today, are no longer hurting. They are no longer sick. Their bodies are no longer breaking down with old age. The pains of the world and life they lived are no more. And as people of faith it is that promise, that hope, that we cling to today. It doesn't make it easier, perhaps nothing will, but we too feel that loving embrace of God's expansive grace.

And it is good.

Our Gospel text from the sermon on the plain, the level place, reminds us of the theme of Luke's Gospel, that the lowly will be lifted up, the mighty cast down, the crooked path made straight, and the rough path made smooth. In God's Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven, where God's will is realized, that is what we get. There is no greater than, less than, or equal to. We are all reminded of that bond we share when we were washed in the waters of baptism. And again, that is the promise we cling to this All Saints Day.

All Saints Day has come to be about more than only remembering those who have died in the last year. A few years back you were urged to do that thing that you would regret not doing. So often when loved ones die we find ourselves wishing we had told them how much they meant to us. We are often upset with ourselves because that message never got to them. So often folks are eulogized with those words we wished we had shared. So, you were challenged to take the time to write that letter, or make that phone call, and share those messages before you'd be upset that you didn't.

Luke's Gospel text for today takes this challenge a step further. And this is where we get to the challenge and reminder of the world that we are called to strive for as people of faith.

Following the hope of the first half of this text, the beatitudes, we are given a glimpse of God's desire for God's people. While the beatitudes are a reminder of the what we will experience in the Kingdom of Heaven, what follows is a reminder of what could be here on earth. A reminder that we don't *have* to wait to experience God's will where the hungry are no more and the weeping rejoice.

Jesus says to those who would listen:

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again."

So what do we do with this? Do we wait until it is our names that are read on All Saints Sunday to realize the world God desires for God's people?

Or, do we get on doing our part to maybe, just maybe, see if it can't be realized here, and now?

What if we took the challenge from a few years ago a step further. What if, instead of reaching out to that person, or those loved ones, that we would otherwise regret not reaching out to, and reached out to those who've harmed us.

What if we reached out with a message of love for our enemies. What if we sought to do good for those who hate us, gave a blessing to those who have cursed us, and prayed for those who've abused us in any way?

What if? What kind of world would that create?

People of God, in baptism we are made living Saints, here and now. In baptism we are called to "strive for justice and peace." In baptism, as congregations, "we welcome (new siblings) into the body of Christ and into the mission we share."

Living as Saints, here and now, is dirty work. But, it is holy work. And we are called into those holy dirty moments to let the light of Christ so shine before others that they would see the good we might do and glorify God who is in heaven.

We pause today to remember. We remember those who have died and now enjoy that heavenly embrace, and we remember that call that we each share to live out God's expansive grace.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

(especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, David, Cassie, Verna, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Daniel)

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Holy One, your church rests on the faithful who came before us. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders the will to carry the church forward and discern your will for the future. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, the earth is yours and all that dwells within it. Care for places ravaged by natural disasters *(especially)*. Quell raging fires and halt destruction caused by flooding. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, you raise up leaders to guide your people. Kindle in them a passion to care for others, a desire to seek the common good, and the courage to love their enemies. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, you bless those who are poor, hungry, and reviled. Provide food, housing, and security to all who are vulnerable or in crisis. May those who have more than enough give generously. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, hold us in community with one another. Nurture a spirit of abundant hospitality and intentional inclusion among us, welcoming the gifts of adults and children. Inspire creative visions for our life together. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, we remember in thanksgiving all those who have died. *(Here the names of those who have died in the previous year may be read.)* Wipe away our tears and comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Maker of all things.

As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion

Prayer

We give you thanks, most gracious God,
that you have fed us with the bread of heaven
and given us a foretaste of Paradise.

Enliven us to be your body in the world
and to serve those who are in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace,
who creates all things and calls them good,
who makes us alive in Jesus,
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Let All Things Now Living”

#881

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!

And all of Good Shepherd said,

AMEN!

End of October Snapshot

Month of October

Total Revenue **\$27,133**

Total Expenses **\$21,632**

October Gap
\$5,501

Year-to-Date

Total Revenue **\$248,612**

Total Expenses **\$244,956**

Year-to-Date Gap
\$3,656

Set your clocks back this weekend!



Congratulations to our Confirmands.

Left to right: Donna Ash (teacher), Jamison Clay, Sienna Bellomy, Matthew Wilson, Pastor Josh.



If you would like to donate bake goods, please have them to church by Monday 8-1 or 4-7. Or stop by and purchase some great treats!

Don't forget to order your poinsettia for our Christmas season! Call the church office by Nov. 10!



Trunk or treat 2022