

# Sunday, November 1, 2020

## All Saints Sunday, Year A

### Introduction

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin**  
**that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.

**Amen.**

### 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.**

## **Psalm and Gospel**

### **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (*Ps. 34:9*)

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

*Blessed are the poor in spirit*

## **Psalm: Psalm 34:1-10, 22**

*Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)*

- <sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup>I will glory in the LORD;  
let the lowly hear and rejoice.
- <sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's name together.
- <sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, who answered me  
and delivered me from all my terrors.
- <sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- <sup>6</sup>I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me  
and saved me from all my troubles.
- <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD  
and delivers them.
- <sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are they who take refuge in God!
- <sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,  
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
- <sup>10</sup>The lions are in want and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good....
- <sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

*In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, 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 will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children 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 people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## **Prayers of Intercession**

When I say, “Hear us, O God,” you respond, “**Your mercy is great.**”

*A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.*

Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people around us.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every nation, guide our beloved United States of America — red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old — as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every blessing, your Son’s blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod. Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. *pause*

We ask your blessing on Grace's call committee, on candidates discerning whether to consider a call to Grace, and on new ministries and renewing ministries within Grace: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Lord of every time and place: countless are the multitudes you call by name.

We are grateful for the new life in Christ offered through baptism.

We pray for those at Grace preparing for baptism in the coming months:

for Chase, for Samuel, and for Sebastian, and for their families;

With gratitude, we celebrate those who have become part of the body of Christ through baptism in other places during this past year:

for Theodora Cristina Beals *ring* and for those we name before you now *pause ring for each name called out, if any*

Lord of every time and place: countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself.

With gratitude, we remember loved ones from Grace, now called unto yourself:

*as each name is read slowly, a bell is rung before the reader moves on to the next name*

Ralph Buffone  
Millie Anderson  
Arline Kratz  
Joan Latanze  
Joan Miller  
Donna Plawa  
Jean Goetter  
Alfred Godshall

With gratitude, we lift before you our loved ones from outside Grace, also called unto yourself during this past year:

*as each name is read slowly, a bell is rung before the reader moves on to the next name*

Carol Bailey  
Irma Hendricks  
Daniel Youells  
Karen Weierbach  
Barb Masser  
Diane Graham  
Diane Kephart  
Lynn Nash  
TréMarr Williams

Frank Ryan  
Ann Peiper  
Stephen Bittner  
Jean Sheehan  
James Sheehan  
Dennis Priester  
George Boileau  
Lee Mangan  
Marilynn Homan  
and for those we name before you now *pause*  
*ring for each name called out, if any*

Comfort us as we grieve. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise.  
Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you  
gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **Offering Prayer**

God of all goodness,  
generations have turned to you,  
gathered around your table,  
and shared your abundant blessings.  
Number us among them  
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,  
and give thanks for your rich blessings,  
we may feast upon your very self  
and care for all that you have made,  
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.  
**Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.  
**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!  
The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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