

## Home Service for November 2, 2025

### Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

*Today we celebrate All Saints Day, a day to remember the saints that have gone before us and day to remember the saints who walk beside us on our journey of faith. Let the saints sing for joy. We are children of the living God. We will see God face to face.*

### Call to Worship:

On this All Saints Sunday, we gather to remember teachers and storytellers who made God's stories come alive for us. We remember choir members, praise bands, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises. We remember preachers and lay leaders who led our worship through the years. We remember parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings who showed us how to hold fast to the faith. We remember our church families – this one and others we have loved. We remember all those who have been a part of this faith family with whom we grew our faith and our love for God and neighbor. We remember our ancestors in the faith whose courage enables us to be here today. We give thanks for the saints who came before us, are present here with us, and will continue after us. Thanks be to God!

### Opening Prayer:

Sovereign of Creation, all that we have comes from you. We gather in your presence, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet. Receive the praise we offer, work in us and through us. You alone are holy, you alone are the Most High, you alone are worthy of our praise. Glory to you, O God, and to the Lamb, our Shepherd, and to the Spirit that unites us all, today and ever more. Amen.

### Prayer of Confession:

Spirit of Truth, feed our hearts from the fullness of your word. We long to embrace the poor, who will inherit your kingdom. We yearn to forsake the lure of earthly riches, lest we forestall your consolation. Turn our failings into a fierce resolve to bear witness to the depth of your truth and the fullness of your grace. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

*In Christ, we receive a glorious inheritance  
and God's redeeming grace.  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we are sealed with the saints in holy love.*

Read Psalm 119:137-144

- <sup>137</sup> You are righteous, Lord,  
and your laws are right.  
<sup>138</sup> The statutes you have laid down are righteous;  
they are fully trustworthy.  
<sup>139</sup> My zeal wears me out,  
for my enemies ignore your words.  
<sup>140</sup> Your promises have been thoroughly tested,  
and your servant loves them.  
<sup>141</sup> Though I am lowly and despised,  
I do not forget your precepts.  
<sup>142</sup> Your righteousness is everlasting  
and your law is true.  
<sup>143</sup> Trouble and distress have come upon me,  
but your commands give me delight.  
<sup>144</sup> Your statutes are always righteous;  
give me understanding that I may live.

Prayers of the People:

*Lord, we are people who want instant answers to all our questions. We want to know how everything is going to work out throughout all of our lives. So we pose questions in which we do not necessarily seek answers but rather entrap you into giving us what we want. Help us understand the broader picture--the scope of your faithfulness and love for us. Remind us of all the times when you have lifted us and brought us to new opportunities for learning and growing. Let us place our trust in you totally, without reservation, for you are indeed faithful and just. As we have brought our prayers before you for our loved ones and for situations in the world in which pain and anger dominate, let us place our trust in your response and your healing love. Give us courage that our faith will be a witness to those who struggle; that our lives will bear the love you have lavished on us. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.*

## 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

Read the Lesson: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

<sup>2</sup> How long, Lord, must I call for help,  
but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, "Violence!"  
but you do not save?

<sup>3</sup> Why do you make me look at injustice?  
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me;  
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore the law is paralyzed,  
and justice never prevails.

The wicked hem in the righteous,  
so that justice is perverted.

**2** I will stand at my watch  
and station myself on the ramparts;  
I will look to see what he will say to me,  
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Then the Lord replied:  
"Write down the revelation  
and make it plain on tablets  
so that a herald<sup>[b]</sup> may run with it.

<sup>3</sup> For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
it speaks of the end  
and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;  
it<sup>[c]</sup> will certainly come  
and will not delay.

<sup>4</sup> "See, the enemy is puffed up;  
his desires are not upright—  
but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness<sup>[d]</sup>—

Read the Epistle Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Paul, Silas<sup>[a]</sup> and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

<sup>11</sup> With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. <sup>12</sup> We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>[a]</sup>

Read the Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:20-31

Looking at his disciples, Jesus said:

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

<sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

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

<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reject your name as evil,  
because of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have already received your comfort.

<sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,  
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.  
<sup>27</sup> “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who  
hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If  
someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes  
your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you,  
and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as  
you would have them do to you.

## Message

Today we celebrate All Saints Sunday. We take note of God’s faithful people who have completed their course on earth and now dwell in the company of the heavenly host. Many times we call them the great cloud of witnesses.

Some of these saints lived long ago. Their lives and actions have inspired people throughout the ages. Others of them are more personal to us. They’re the saints that we’ve personally known. They are our parents, brothers and sisters. They include aunts and uncles and grandparents. This great cloud includes friends we have known, souls who have played a significant role in shaping us into the people we are, who have inspired us.

We gather today to mark the footprint they have left and the impact they continue to make on our lives. These are God’s saints. What makes a saint a saint? Who is a saint? We are God’s saints! But not because we make ourselves holy. No, we have been made holy by God. God makes us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Knowing who we are makes us strong. It gives us courage to face the hardships and challenges that will inevitably present themselves.

Courage. The word derives from the Latin root for heart: "cour." Courage resides in our heart. When we are encouraged, we take heart. Courage does not have to do with an absence of fear. Courage acknowledges fear, but moves past it. When we have courage, we cast our fears aside. Nelson Mandela once said: “I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” Knowing who we are, gives us grounding. It builds a foundation of inner courage.

This knowledge of who we came from gives us a greater understanding of who we are. I know that for myself, the lives of my deceased relatives hold me to my values and to know what my priorities are. Knowing the people I come from grounds me for they also helped me to find my faith.

Our greatest sense of self identity comes when we remember who we are in the family of God. For God is ETERNAL. In God we have a permanent place. We have a forever home. God is the source of our life and God will be our homing. We come from God. We were made in the spirit and image of God. This means that we carry within us something of the character and essence of God. Knowing who God is tells us who we are. God gives us roots. Lasting, forever roots.

These are roots that go down so deep and spread out so wide, that we will not be moved. When we rest ourselves in our everlasting connection with God, nothing in all of creation can move us! We are like a tree planted by the waters. Our leaves will not wither. And our lives shall bear fruit. They will bear fruit within each and every season of life.

This is what Jesus is getting at in the Gospel with his Beatitudes. Even when we are poor, even in times of hunger, we are blessed. Even in the hour of our sorrow, even during the times when we are despised and defamed, we are blessed. We are blessed, because in God, we are strong! Our hearts take courage!

Our true identity is as a child of God. This is the identity you have to accept. Once you have claimed it and settled in it, you can live in a world that gives you much joy as well as pain. You can receive the praise as well as the blame that comes to you as an opportunity for strengthening your basic identity, because the identity that makes you free is anchored beyond all human praise and blame. You belong to God, and it is as a child of God that you are sent into the world. We are in this world as God's saints. In that identity we can live courageously. We are freed to live fully!

The heart is the seat of courage, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which God has called us. We have been called as God's saints. Live courageously. Walk as children of the light. So, the good news we share this day with all the saints on earth and all the saints in heaven, with all the saints who have gone before us and all the saints who will come after us. We rejoice this day in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. We rejoice that God has called us to sainthood and for having given us a totally new way of looking at life, a way which turns out, in fact, to be the only way there is. Amen.

Benediction:

*Beloved, now we are the saints of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be. But we know when we let Jesus reign in our hearts, we will appear to others as a reflection of God's Son. We leave this place determined to imitate Christ. Amen.*