

Service of Holy Communion
Pentecost 22 –All Saints Observance – November 6, 2022

Hymn 293 – I sing a song of the saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love made them strong:
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason – no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still,
the world is bright with the joyous saints, who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops,
or at tea,
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

BCP - Page 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets
are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that
we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our
Lord. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Collect for All Saints Day

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading – Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Second Reading – Ephesians 1:11-23

Hymn 279 – For thy dear saints

For thy dear saints, O Lord, who strove in thee to live,
who followed thee, obeyed, adored, our grateful hymn receive.

They all in life and death, with thee their Lord in view,
learned from thy Holy Spirit's breath to suffer and to do.

Thine earthly members fit to join thy saints above,
in one communion every knit, one fellowship of love.

Jesus, thy Name we bless, and humbly pray that we
may follow them in holiness, who live and died for thee.

Gospel – Luke 6:20-31

Sermon – The Rev. Charles Rowins

Nicene Creed – page 358

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again In accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Prayers of the People Form IV – page 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Confession and Absolution – page 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace – page 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements and *America (portions of Hymn 717)*

*My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might. great God, our King.*

Eucharistic Prayer – page 361

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Lord's Prayer – BCP p. 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread – BCP p. 364

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

Post Communion Prayer – BCP p. 365

*Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn 287 – For all the saints, stanzas 1-4

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light.
Alleluia, alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lessons for All Saints Observance – November 6, 2022

Collect: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: “As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever – forever and ever.”

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 149

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in his Maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
Let them praise his Name in the dance;
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes pleasure in his people
and adorns the poor with victory.
Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
let them be joyful on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their throat
and a two-edged sword in their hand.
To wreak vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples;
To bind their kings in chains
and their nobles with links of iron;
To inflict on them the judgment decreed;
this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:11-23

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: Luke 6:20-31

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice 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. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 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. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. But I say to you that listen, Love our enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them to do you.”

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon with All-Saints theme preached by The Rev. Charles Rowins on November 6, 2022, St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, Maryland.

All Saints Day in the Church calendar falls on November 1, which has passed. But, I checked with God, and God said, “Go ahead and this year observe All Saints Day on November 6. It’s okay. Not to worry.”

So, mindful of God’s assurance, here we are on November 6, observing All Saints Day, normally observed on November 1

Why do we like this Day anyway? Well, if truth be told, we like All Saints Day because of the adjective “All.” That’s right, we’re included.

Now, it could be that those who developed the Church Calendar didn’t intend for the adjective “All” to apply to all of us. They probably meant for the “All” to apply only to those whose lives are saintly.

But that wouldn’t be any fun, would it? Of course not, because most of us don’t qualify for Sainthood. So, let’s broaden the definition just enough to include all of us.

Now, we’re talking. Now, we’re not leaving anybody out. Now, we’re not focusing on just a few, if that. No, now we are raising all of us to the level of Saint. And maybe, just maybe, this is exactly what God intends.

After all, it is God’s choice, isn’t it? If God wants to include us, honor us, thank us, encourage us, who are we to say “No God, you can’t do this” or “No God, we can’t accept this”?

Well, God can do anything God wants, including convincing us to accept the designation. So, let’s go with what God wants. Let’s accept God’s broad definition of saint. And let’s say thank you to God for this very generous designation.

Well, how does it feel? Well, maybe it feels a bit like the dream that Daniel had (**Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18**). In that dream, the “holy ones of the Most High shall receive

the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever.” Would God ever consider us “holy” and therefore eligible recipients?

If this is so, **Psalm 149** could be our theme song. “Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song.” Sounds like the end of our Sunday service. “Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Go in peace to love and service the Lord. Thanks be to God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!”

Now, that’s a positive feeling. Almost as positive as Paul was in his Letter to the Ephesians. Is there a more positive passage of Scripture than this? “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.”

What a great phrase: “..... the eyes of your heart enlightened.” (**Ephesians 1:18**)

Such a moment was shared by those whom we call Saints. Something in them enabled them to step up to do something saintly. You and I have had such experiences. Maybe not a lot, but enough to make us wonder.

My guess is that all of us can cite an experience where we stepped up to help, and later wondered “What got into me? What gave me that push? Or, who gave me that push?”

Might it have been the Spirit? We’ve never forgotten that moment. It has stayed with us for years. Maybe it was the Holy Spirit speaking to us. Maybe it was a version of today’s Gospel lesson (**Luke 6:20-31**), what we know as the Beatitudes, the Sermon on the Mount. From hungry to full. From weeping to laughing. From being hated to leaping for joy.

Is all of this an accident? Or is it intentional? Is it God at work in our lives? Is it the Lord reminding us that He is in us, waiting to be shared with a world in need of the kind of love that we experience in Jesus?

If you had to pick one element of the Christian Faith that moves you, might that one element be a sense of being saved for the purpose of serving others?

That sense is not accidental. It is intentional. And, if “intentional,” whose intention? Who says things like “turn the other cheek, give both your coat and your shirt, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and remember, that in my eyes, you are a saint?”

Whoa! This is too much. I don't belong in the saint category. I'm glad you, Lord, think so, but I can't say so for myself. I know myself, and I think you, Lord, are wrong about me.

We've had this conversation, haven't we? And it's still going on. And no matter how often we tell the Lord that we are not deserving of His forgiveness, that forgiveness keeps coming at us. It won't let us go. And more than that, the Lord keeps calling us saints. The hymn “For all thy saints” keeps ringing in our ears. Sometimes we just can't comprehend the depth of God's love.

Well, guess what? It's not our call. It is God's call. And it's not “Out.” It's “Safe.”

So, fellow Sinners, let us get used to it. It's why we gather. We keep working at accepting the notion that God loves us so much that He will die for us, and rise for us, and be with us for ever.

We can keep fighting. But it is God who will win. And win for us, and for those who are moved by our faith. No pressure, mind you. But the Lord is counting on us to share that faith.

A big responsibility? Oh yes. But the outcome is not in doubt. Salvation is ours to accept, to acknowledge, and to share. And always in the company of the Lord, who, against all odds, considers you and me a saint. Go figure. Amen.