



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

Glory to you O Lord.

“But I say to you that listen, Love your 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 do to you.

Praise to you O Christ.

Since the earliest days of Christianity, the faithful have gathered to give thanks for the life and ministry of the Saints; women and men whose witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ has been a blessing in every generation.

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much or how little is known about these faithful witnesses, their ministry has richly blessed the church.

We gather today to give thanks to God for the Saints who have touched our lives, a wife, a husband, a mother, a father, an aunt, an uncle, a good friend. These are the members and friends of St. Timothy's: Wilson, Erva, Shirley, Jeanne, Norma, Geraldine, Shirley, David, Jayne, Terry, Ron, Gloria, Anna and Anna. Their lives were simple. They were plain ordinary folks. Nothing flashy about them. The salt of the earth. Yet, their life and their ministry richly blessed us and blessed the church. Now having died; our Saints live in the near presence of God; to whom we will be joined in eternal fellowship. This is the hope in which we live, given to us by the resurrection of God's son, Jesus.

On this day, All Saints Sunday, we talk a lot about Saints. Yet, what does it mean to be a Saint? How do you understand the meaning of this word? We may understand - interpret the word "Saint" in different dimensions.

All Saints Day was originally set aside to commemorate all those martyrs from the early persecutions whose names were never recorded and whose memory was in constant danger of being lost. Over time, this celebration was extended to remember all who have lived and died in the faith and rest eternally and triumphantly from their labours. And so today, names of the departed are read, bells are tolled and candles lit to remember their life and faith.

A second dimension of the word Saint was added during the Reformation by reclaiming the confession that all those who have been baptized into Christ and declared righteous by grace are living saints of God. We then recognize and celebrate our union with those secured by Christ's death – we are living saints!

The final dimension of the word Saint emphasizes that a saint is not only one who is made holy, but also one who is blessed by God.

By worldly standards, it would appear that the saints of the early church didn't know much about blessings. Most of them didn't know the first thing about wealth, and many lived all or part of their lives in poverty. Many of the saints never knew high paying jobs, choosing instead to work for little or no money at all, serving the poor and the helpless. Many of the saints were hated and met their untimely death because of the faith they so boldly proclaimed.

Worldly standards weren't how the saints patterned their lives. They lived by Jesus' standards. And as Luke tells us, Jesus' standard for what constituted a blessing is radically different from the standards that the rest of the world is accustomed to.

Jesus 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 on that day and leap for Joy for surely your reward is great in heaven.”

Poverty, hunger, mourning, hatred, exclusion, berate, and slander – they certainly don’t seem like blessings!

But Jesus is convinced that they are. And most shocking of all, Jesus says that these are the sorts of people that the Kingdom of God is entrusted to.

Now, I can hear the small voices in some of your minds saying, “We can’t possibly entrust the Kingdom of God to a bunch of poor folks. They don’t know anything about business or what it takes to run a kingdom.” Believe me, if this thought is in your mind, it was also in the mind of many a person during the time of Jesus.

To this thought process Jesus responds and says,

“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!”

In other words, woe to you who don’t know what poverty looks like, or what hunger feels like. Woe to you who have never known an occasion for mourning. And woe to you who manage to tell everyone what they want to hear instead of the truth they so desperately need to hear.

We gather here on this All Saints Sunday with words of blessing and words of woe, admits the beautiful music, the festive liturgy and remembering our loved ones. Yet let us not lose sight of the fact that sainthood is deliberated or given not for what we have done but for who God has called us and called us to be. God is calling us to bear witness to the Kingdom of God!

The Kingdom of God witnessed by Jesus in Luke’s gospel is not some abstract theological term about a time and place the world has never known. The Kingdom of God is a place that all of us can come to know.

The Kingdom of God breaks through when we love our enemies. It takes hold when we do good to those who hate us. It comes alive when we bless those who curse us. It shines brightly when we pray for those who abuse or mistreat us. It shows up when we honour the request of beggars.

The work of building the Kingdom is not easy. Life with God isn’t easy.

Life with God means that we know what it is to be poor, hungry, sorrowful and cursed. Life with God means that we will know what it is to be unpopular and to be discounted and overlooked.

Life with God means that we will know what it is to be hated. This is the life that Wilson, Erva, Shirley, Jeanne, Norma, Geraldine, Shirley, David, Jayne, Terry, Ron, Gloria, Anna and Anna knew.

My friends in Christ. Today we remember those who are gone from us but not from God. For in Christ, there is victory over the grave. Yes, death has its sting but as Christ rose, we too shall rise and see our loved ones once again.

On this day, may we be reminded of our calling to live as Jesus, sharing the message of the Kingdom. And may we start not in the comfort of our homes or in the comfort of our churches or the comfort of fellow workers but among the poor and the hungry and the sorrowful and the hated; because, after all, the Kingdom of God belongs to them.

And when we do this, the blessed communion of saints of all generations will cry out, "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! 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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

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STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....

Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Canada Lutheran Magazine subscription renewals for 2026 – Please advise the church office if you would like to renew your subscription. If you do not receive it and would like to, please contact the church office by November 15th. The new rates will be available in early December. For 2025, it was \$19 + tax.

Eternity for Today Devotional Booklets for 2026 – If you are interested in receiving this booklet, please let Pastor Bruce know by November 15th. If you already receive this booklet and want to continue, no further action is required. The congregation's budget covers the cost of these booklets – however, donations via the offering envelope are welcome.

Pastor Bruce will be on vacation from November 5 and returning on November 12. In the case of a pastoral emergency please call Pastor Jim Goos 613-401-8750.

The Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held Sunday, November 23rd after the morning service. Please plan to attend.