NOVEMBER 29, 2026

SERMON NOTES

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COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

Key Scripture: Matthew 22:37, 39
Jesus teaches us two important commandments:

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

1. **ONE BODY – UNITED IN CHRIST**
    - **1 Corinthians 10:17:** Though we are many, we share one bread and are one body because we partake of the same bread.
    - **Isaiah 61:1:** God's Spirit anoints and empowers His servant to bring good news, healing, and liberty.
    - **Luke 4:18:** Jesus declares His mission to preach the Gospel, heal the brokenhearted, and set captives free.
    - **Hebrews 13:3:** We are instructed to remember those who are imprisoned and those who suffer, as though we were suffering with them.
2. **THE BLOOD CRIES OUT – GOD SEES INJUSTICE**
    a. **The Blood of Abel – Genesis 4:10**
        - After Cain killed his brother Abel, God told Cain that Abel's blood was crying out to Him from the ground.
        - God saw the injustice committed against Abel.
        - Hidden wrongdoing is never hidden from God.
        - God hears the cries of those who suffer.

    b. **The Earth Was Filled With Violence – Genesis 6:11, 13**
        - In Noah's day, the earth became corrupt and filled with violence.
        - Sin affects more than the individual; it affects families and communities.
        - God holds humanity accountable for its actions.

    c. **The Souls Under the Altar – Revelation 6:9-10**
        - John sees the souls of those who were killed because of their faith and testimony.
        - God is aware of the persecution and suffering of His people.

    d. **Peace Through the Blood of Christ – Colossians 1:20**
        - Through the blood Jesus shed on the cross, God made reconciliation possible, bringing peace through Christ.
        - God hears the cries of the suffering, sees injustice, and calls His people to demonstrate compassion, while Christ's blood makes reconciliation possible.
3. **CHRISTIANS – CALLED TO FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE**
    a. **The Early Church – Acts 2:42**
        - The early believers continued steadfastly in four important practices:
            1. The Apostles' Doctrine: They were committed to learning God's Word.
            2. Fellowship: They shared their lives and encouraged one another.
            3. Breaking of Bread: They gathered together in remembrance and fellowship.

4. Prayer: They remained devoted to communicating with God.

b. **Fellowship in Difficult Times – Acts 16**
   - Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises while imprisoned.
   - Their testimony affected those around them.
   - The Philippian jailer and his household received the Gospel.
   - Lydia welcomed Paul and his companions into her home after believing.

c. **We Are the Light of the World – Matthew 5:14**
   - Jesus calls His followers the light of the world.

d. **Am I My Brother's Keeper? – Genesis 4:9**
   - When God asked Cain where Abel was, Cain responded, "*Am I my brother's keeper*?"
   - This question challenges us to consider our responsibility toward others.
   - As Christians, we should not be indifferent to the needs of those around us.

e. **Honor and Love Others – 1 Peter 2:17**
   - We are instructed to honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the king.

f. **Do Good to All – Galatians 6:10**
   - We should take every opportunity to do good to everyone, especially those who belong to the family of faith.

4. **THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS – LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

- **Walking in the Light – 1 John 1:7**
  - When we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.
  - Fellowship begins with our relationship with God.
  - Walking in God's light should influence how we treat others.
- **The New Commandment – John 13:34-35**
  - Jesus commands His disciples to love one another as He has loved them.
  - He also explains that love is the identifying mark of His disciples.
- **Love Must Be Demonstrated – 1 John 3:11, 23**
  - The message from the beginning is that we should love one another.
  - God commands us to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another.
- **Love Comes From God – 1 John 4:7, 11-12**
  - Love originates from God.
  - Because God loved us, we should love one another.
- **Love is a Command – 2 John 1:5**
  - John reminds believers that loving one another is not a new or optional idea. It is a commandment we have received from God.
  - Love is the foundation of Christian fellowship. We cannot claim to walk with God while deliberately refusing to love others.