

PrairieLand Parish

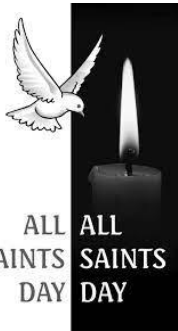
As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God

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**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**

**Prelude**

**Welcome/ Announcements**



**Opening Meditation**

All Saints Day is one of those moments where we celebrate and remember those who have made the journey or who have taken the next step. We remember them because they are still a part of us, shaping us, mentoring us – maybe not in a direct way, but in a real way.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love."

On All Saints Day, we recognize that we are part of a giant choir singing the same song. It is the song Jesus taught his disciples; a tune that has resonated for more than 2,000 years; a melody sung in glory and on the earth. Our great privilege is to add our voices to this chorus.

So, in the presence of our sainted ones who have moved on before us let us come together this day by first finding our Holy center through those inspirational words written in 1 John 3: 1-3 -

31 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he[a] is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this All Saints Day, we gather to join the multitude of saints across the generations from all tribes, peoples, and languages, to proclaim:

**Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

We come to remember, to grieve, and to celebrate those saints who have come before, yet whose life and witness continues to teach us:

**Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

We gather today as the family of Christ, siblings and saints, diverse yet united by grace to live lives that declare:

**Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

May we be guided today by the Lamb who is our Shepherd, the one who gathers us, comforts us and tends us.

**May we join in the work of the Shepherd to bring about a world with no more hunger, no more thirst, no more suffering, and no more pain that all the saints of the past, the present, and the future may share in God's abundant life. Amen.**

### **OPENING PRAYER: ALL SAINTS**

*From Seasons of the Spirit: All Saints Day—Year A, published by WoodLake Publishing*

In all our weakness and strength,  
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

**we come to be your people, O God.**

Strong in faith and eager with questions,  
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

**we come to be your people, O God.**

Filled with saintly determination  
yet mindful of our human limitations,

**we come to be your people, O God.**

Made strong in your endless love for us,  
we know ourselves to be yours and

**we come to be your people, O God.**

May we truly become your people today.

### **Praise Hymn**

#### ***We Hear God's Word***

**Gospel Reading..... Matthew 5:1-12(NRSV)**

#### **The Beatitudes**

5 When Jesus[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely [b] on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

## **Faith Hymn**

### **Brief Message**

#### **Honoring of our Saints LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE**

Living God, our Guide and Guardian,  
Who sits on the throne and delivers us into eternal life,  
we give you thanks for the saints of every time, tribe, and tongue  
who now rest in the shelter of your embrace.

We set aside this moment to remember  
Those saints who are dear and precious to us  
Who have died and entered into glory  
during the last twelve months.

***As each name is called, light a candle in honor of each person.***

***Racine: Bonnie Hotopp***

***Grand Meadow: Donna Newkirk***

***Sumner Center: Barb Koster***

***Dexter: Vandy Newman, Aubriena Seavey***

***Brownsdale: Gayler Jensen, Helen Chapman, Rita Luthe, Ethan King, Kelly Allen***

***Sargeant: Vic Dvorak, Lowell Anderson***

We bless you for the life and love of these dear saints,  
and rejoice for them that they have entered  
into the fullness of life in your presence.

We also remember those saints who  
We hold in our hearts who have not been  
With us for some time, yet whose life and witness  
Continue to form and shape us as your disciples.  
We honor them now by lifting their names aloud or in our hearts.

***Allow space for people to speak names aloud from where they are seated.***

On this All Saints Sunday, we also remember  
that we too are living saints,  
members of the family of God  
with all the saints of the past, the present, and the future.  
And so, we remember:

We are God's children.

What we shall be has not yet been revealed;  
but we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him,  
for we shall see him as he is.  
So today and every day,  
may we put on Christ and live as saints  
who tend the poor,  
comfort the mourners,  
learn from the meek,  
affirm those who seek righteousness,  
offer mercy alongside the merciful,  
and work for peace with the peacemakers  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast as the family of God  
at his heavenly banquet. Amen.

## **The Great Thanksgiving for All Saints**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*B. David Hostetter, Prayers for the Seasons on God's People: Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B (Abingdon, 1999), 203-204.*

**Good and great God, we come to you through Jesus Christ who intercedes for us sinners. We confess our sins, seeking forgiveness not only that we may be at peace with you, but also that we may pray for others. We are ashamed that our prayers are often as self-centered as our lives. Excuse our disordered priorities as we seek to change and reorder our lives according to the teaching and spirit of Jesus Christ you Son, our Lord. Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Friends, hear the good news! God has chosen you to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit.

**We are saved by the Spirit through belief in the truth in Christ.**

Friends, believe the good news!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our 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:  
God of Abraham and Sarah,

God of Miriam and Moses,  
God of Joshua and Deborah,  
God of Ruth and David,  
God of the priests and the prophets,  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
God of the apostles and the martyrs,  
God of our mothers and our fathers,  
God of our children to all generations.  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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 are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with all your saints,  
especially those whom we named before you—

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us,  
looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever. Amen.

### **Sharing of the elements**

#### **Sharing of our Joys & Concerns**

##### **Pastoral Prayer for All Saints Day**

Living God, in whom there is no shadow or change,  
we thank you for the gift of life eternal,  
and for all those who, having served you well,  
now rest from their labours.

We thank you for all the saints remembered and forgotten,  
And for those dear souls named today that are most precious to us.  
Today we give thanks for those who during the last twelve months

We bless you for their life and love,  
and rejoice for them "all is well,  
and all manner of things will be well."

God of Jesus and our God,  
mindful of all those choice souls who have gone on ahead of us,  
teach us, and each twenty-first century disciple of every race and place,  
to follow their example to the best of our ability:

- to feed the poor in body or spirit,
- to support and comfort the mourners and the repentant,
- to encourage the meek and stand with them in crises,
- to affirm those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- to cherish and learn from the merciful,
- to be humbled by, and stand with, the peacemakers.

Let us clearly recognize what it means to be called the children of God,  
and to know we are to be your saints neither by our own inclination nor  
in our own strength but simply by the call and the healing holiness of Christ Jesus  
our Savior.

Lord we raise to you this day (name those shared in joys and concerns) may your  
loving hands be upon them. In Jesus name we pray the prayer he taught us to  
pray, Our Father...

**Lords prayer...**

#### **Offertory**

## **Doxology**

### **Offertory Prayer**

God of all generations, as we worship today, we offer our whole selves to you, all that we have and all that we are. Like your saints who have gone before us, we pray that you will help us to be bold in our mission and in our witness. May we who have been given so much give freely, ministering in your compassion to the multitudes near and far, so that one day, we may stand amid the multitude that gathers at your heavenly throne. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Christ our Lord. Amen. (Revelation 7:9-17)

### **Departing Hymn**

#### **SENDING FORTH:**

Beloved, receive this good news: you are children of God, united as family with the saints of every tribe, nation, language, and generation. Go forth now in the company of the multitude who have put on the life of the Lamb that you may love and live after the imitation of Christ, our Savior. Amen.