



THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Rite

Voluntary

Entrance Hymn

All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 287

For all the saints, who from their labors rest

Sine Nomine

1 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!

2 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!

3 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!

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

5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia, alleluia!

7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, alleluia!

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Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: **One God and Father of all.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

On the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give you thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in this place, and we pray that all who seek you here may find you, and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lessons

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

A Reading from the Prophet Daniel.

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 for ever – for ever and ever.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Gradual Anthem

Lord of the Small

Dan Forrest

Praise to the Lord of the small broken things,
who sees the poor sparrow that cannot take wing,
who loves the lame child and the wretch in the street
who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.

Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid
who girds them with courage and lends them His aid,
He pours out his spirit on vessels so weak,
that the timid can serve and the silent can speak.

Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill
who heals their afflictions or carries them till,
they leave this tired frame and to paradise fly.
to never be sick and never to die.

Praise him, O praise Him all ye who live
who've been given so much and can so little give
our frail lisping praise God will never despise –
He sees His dear children through mercy-filled eyes.

“God of the small” Text by Johanna Anderson, Music by Dan Forrest
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Second Reading: Ephesians 1:11-23

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

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 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 293

I sing a song of the saints of God

Grand Isle

1 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 a 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.

2 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.

3 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.

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Gospel: Luke 6:20-31

All remain standing.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 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.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Reverend Jim Bernacki

HOLY BAPTISM

The Presentation and Examination of the Candidates BCP p. 301

Celebrant: The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents: I present *Henry Thomas Campbell* to receive the Sacrament of
Baptism.

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is
brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the
full stature of Christ?

Parents: **I will, with God's help.**

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: **I renounce them.**

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: **I renounce them.**

Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer: **I renounce them.**

Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer: **I do.**

Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer: **I do.**

Question: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer: **I do.**

After child has been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People: **We will.**

Celebrant: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

BCP p. 304

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

BCP p. 305

Celebrant: Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader: Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

BCP p. 306

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Baptism

BCP p. 307

Henry Thomas Campbell, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Henry Thomas Campbell, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Welcome the Newly Baptized

BCP p. 308

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

BCP p. 360

All stand

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Anthem

Steal away

African-American Spiritual/Gwyneth Walker

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus, Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home.
I ain't got long to stay here.

My lord a-calls me by the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul.
I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees a-bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling, trembling,
trembling, trembling, trembling.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul.
I ain't got long to stay here.
Steal away home.

I see the lightning, the thunder and the lightning, O Lord.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul.
I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord calls me, calls me home.

“Steal away” Text: Traditional, Music: Gwyneth Walker

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Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Names of those buried from this parish:

Helen Arthur-Cornett
Judy Armstrong
Hilda Norwood Marshall
Thomas Farebrother
Janet Vandervort Means
Patsy Ruth Scercy
Roselyn M. Gerard
Peggy Glyn Mullis

Names of those submitted by parishioners:

Ronald and Patsy Paige
Scarlett Grace Tilson
Linda Marie W.
Linda Ann Forsyth, sister of Regina
Forsyth
Heather
Charles Whitfield
Joseph Anderson
Elizabeth Norton
Chris Cape
Ronnie White
Adelheid (Heidi) Diez Waters
George L. Kiser
Hoke Karriker

P.W. Glidewell
Dorie Stotz
Donald Joseph Engel
Mary Lou Campo
Jeffrey Wydra
Ruth Williams
Dawn Smith Switch
Owen Conley
Steve Ayers Jr.
Eli Watterson
Charles "Chuck" Wilk
Ray "T" Wilk
Dr. Madeline Speagle
Leo Barcomb
Dan "Steamboat" Kovar
Linda Wickline
Glenn Tyler Ratliff
Martin Redfern
Peter William Hoadley
Karl Meyer
LaMont Hamilton
Rosalinde Moore
Ronald Kennington Glosson
Kenneth Williams
David Holding

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

BCP p. 361

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For in the multitude of your saints you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

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:

Sanctus

See pew card

Celebrant and People

**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.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

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:

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant and People



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

10

The Celebrant continues

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.

The Great Amen

See pew card.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

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

People and Celebrant

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Be known to us, Lord Jesus

See pew card.

Choir: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Choir: The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Choir: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Invitation

BCP p. 364

The Celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God, and we are the people of God.

Come to this table, you who have much faith

and you who would like to have more,

You who have been here often

and you who have not been here for a long time,

You who have tried to follow Jesus,

and all of us who have failed.

Come, Christ the Risen Lord invites you to meet him here.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Communion Anthem

Rest for the Weary

Benjamin M. Culli

A rest remains for all the weary;
Arise, sad heart, and grieve no more;
Though long the way, and dark and dreary,
It opens to the golden shore.
Before His throne the Lamb will lead you,
On heav'nly pastures He will feed you,
Cast off your burden, come with haste;
Soon toil and strife will be unraveled,
The weary way that you have traveled,
Sweet is the rest that you will taste.

The Father's house has many a dwelling,
And there for you a place will be.
With perfect love His heart is welling
Who loved you from eternity.
His precious blood the Lamb has given
That you may share the joys of heaven,

And now He calls out far and near:
“You weary souls, cast off your sorrow;
My light shines bright upon the morrow.
Come, sweetest rest awaits you here!”

There rest and peace in endless measure
Will be ours through eternity;
No grief, no care, will mar our pleasure,
And untold joy our lot will be.
Oh, had we wings to hasten yonder –
No more this sinful world to ponder –
To join the glad, triumphant band!
Arise, my soul, forget all sadness,
For peace awaits you, joy and gladness –
The perfect rest and promised land.

“Rest for the weary” Text: Johan S. Kunth, Music: Benjamin M. Culli
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Lay Eucharistic Minister Prayer *(as needed)*

Celebrant: In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist, _____ will take the
Eucharist to _____ today.

**All: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these
holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the
communion of Christ’s Body and Blood. We who are many are one
body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

Blessing

BCP p. 366

Announcements

Closing Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 – 618

Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Lasst uns erfreuen

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
raise the glad strain, Alleluia!

Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises, Alleluia!

Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest, ye patriarchs and prophets blest,

Alleluia, alleluia!

Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, all saints triumphant, raise the song,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing, supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, alleluia!

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Deacon offers the Dismissal, and the people respond:

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

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**The flowers on the altar today are given by
Joe and Nancy Hunter
to the Glory of God and in honor and in memory
of the veterans of All Saints'.**

Announcements | Scan the QR code with your camera phone to view All Saints' *Weekly Word* newsletter.

Giving | There are a variety of ways to give at All Saints'. For details, go to www.allsaintsconcord.org/online-giving.



INGATHERING
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 6

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MORE THAN ENOUGH

Stewardship 2023

Please be prayerfully considering your giving estimate for 2023!



MORE THAN ENOUGH

Blessed are the Poor

By Sam Messer, who lives in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom with his wife and canine family, where he is an elementary school custodian. He is a proud cradle Episcopalian.

Jesus had a soft spot for the poor. It might be fair to say, he preferred the poor. Poverty exists everywhere, you needn't go to a "developing nation" to find it. It's down your block. Don't think so? You're likely not looking hard enough. Here, Jesus challenges us to look. Because he tells the poor, the hungry, "I see you, and yours is coming."

Sometimes the rich engage in the narrative that poor choices lead to poor people: "They made bad financial decisions."

"He ran all his money into the ground on drugs or alcohol."

“She didn’t take her education seriously and now has a low paying job.”

But in truth, economic injustice in the United States is far more complicated, and often combined with big ticket societal issues like systemic racism, sexism, immigration status, employment discrimination for marginalized groups like the LGBT+ community, generational poverty, or the geographic location you were born. Americans get very comfortable at living comfortably, and confronting poverty takes people to a place they don’t like. But Jesus tells us over and over again, that the vulnerable are our mission. In the words of Óscar Romero, “It is not God’s will for some to have everything and others to have nothing.”

Our calling as Christians is to live life generously. And not for our own desires, or those of our immediate circle. But for those on the fringes. Think of the good that could grow if we died to self a little more, and wholeheartedly embraced the work that Jesus has given us to do. Do you see the Holy Spirit in the faces of the poor? Are you actually looking?

Questions for Reflection: Reflect upon a time where you made a judgment on a person or place when you had limited or incomplete information. Discuss your experience with explanations for poverty. What are your own explanations? Do they need investigating?



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