

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“For all the Saints”

“For all the saints who from their labors rest...” is the opening line of the much beloved hymn we sing on All Saints Day/Sunday. Verse 3 begins “Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine...”

It does not take a special day for most of us to call to mind loved ones who have been conduits of God’s grace, who have helped shape us into the persons we are today. With them we have a tight bond. We will always feel close.

On All Saints Day we make special note of their memory and honor them for what they are and have been to us. Appropriately we celebrate their lives.

We are told that “the custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ.”

At St. Timothy on Sunday, November 1, according to a long standing tradition, we will remember the faithful who have died during the past year. We invite you to join us for this moving service.

The scripture for the day include Isaiah 25:6-9. Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when the Lord will gather all God’s people on God’s holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet the Lord will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

Revelation 21:1-6a presents a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God’s people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated.

In John 11:32-44, through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears.