

**Sunday, November 2, 2014 Ordinary Time All Saints' Sunday**

**Call to Worship**

Come those who thirst for living water.

**God is speaking to us.**

Come to worship in spirit and truth

**God is speaking to us.**

Come and know what you have heard from others

**God is speaking to us.**

**Prayer of Adoration and All Saints Litany**

**Gracious God,...**

We thank you for this day,

Remembering your gifts are not just things,

But people,

The saints of your church...

**We remember**

Teachers and storytellers who made God's stories come alive for us and

**We give thanks!**

**We remember**

Singers, harpists, bell ringers, guitarists, clarinetists, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises and

**We give thanks!**

**We remember**

Preachers and lay leaders who led our worship through the years and

**We give thanks!**

**We remember**

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters, and brothers who sat with us on Sundays and lived out their faith all week long and

**We give thanks!**

**We remember**

Our church families-this one and others we have loved. We remember all those who have been a part of this family and

**We give thanks!**

**We remember**

Our ancestors in the faith whose courage enables us to be here today. For our sisters and brothers in the faith whose names are remembered only by God

**We give thanks! Amen**

**Call to Confession**

The Bible Scholar, Ernst Käsemann wrote a book called "Jesus Means Freedom." And it's true. For we have the opportunity for freedom in him, because we take time to examine our lives and ask for his forgiveness, and he can remove that burden of guilt from our hearts. In faith and penitence, let us pray together...

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. (Silence) Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

#### **Psalm 107:1-9**

**O give thanks to the Lord, who is good; whose steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;  
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.  
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and God delivered them from their distress;  
The Lord led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

**Let them thank the Lord for this steadfast love, for these wonderful works to humankind.  
For God satisfies the thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things.**

### **Time Out for Teaching: The I in TULIP**

God's grace is irresistible. That is a part of our Presbyterian heritage. The "I" in TULIP refers to God's "Irresistible Grace."

Think back for a moment in your life, when you felt terribly sorry for something you had done or left undone. Remember how that feels? That guilt drags down our hearts, maybe even makes us feel sick inside. It's a terrible feeling.

Now think back to a time, when that feeling was lifted. Perhaps you were told you were forgiven. But it can sometimes take time to finally accept that forgiveness. But when you realized it and believed it, remember the feeling it gave you. For me it can feel like the heart is lifted, a burden is gone.

Did you feel relief? Did you feel joy? Did you feel like you were walking on air, on top of the world?

Well, that's the whole idea behind irresistible grace. But add gratitude to lightness in your and you have the very crux of worship. Today, as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ while partaking of Holy Communion, we call that a feast of celebration, remembering the abundance of grace in the midst of our brokenness. The Irresistible Grace frees us from the past so we have a future in Jesus Christ's Church, to be the servants of God He always intended us to be.

God's grace is irresistible, because it offers us freedom from our past, freed to serve a purpose.

### **MATTHEW 23:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; <sup>3</sup>therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup>They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. <sup>6</sup>They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. <sup>8</sup>But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. <sup>9</sup>And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father — the one in heaven. <sup>10</sup>Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. <sup>11</sup>The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup>All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

O Lord, you called us into being by your Word,  
You sent us your Word made Flesh  
That we may listen and be your Word at work.  
Make us your saints that the world may witness your kingdom at hand.  
Amen.

### **Sermon: “Thanks for the Memory!”**

Bob Hope was a great entertainer. There's a lot we could say about him. But one thing that will always stand out in my mind is his signature song: “Thanks for the Memory!”

It's a nostalgic song. In 2004, the American Film Institute ranked it #63 in the Top 100 tunes in American cinema. Hope sang it with Shirley Ross in 1938 in “The Big Broadcast,” but was sung by many others: Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary

Clooney and more. And it really lends itself to interchangeable lyrics, so you can insert your own memories, which has been known to happen. Like on “The Golden Girls” when Sophie sang: “Thanks for the Medicare, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, for the hip that finally healed, Remember that on prescriptions, generic is a steal. We thank you so much.”

It would be fun if we came up with one of our own. On All Saints’ Day, we can say to God, “Thanks for the memory.” We give thanks for the ancient saints, and for modern saints, those we know and those we never met. And the greatest saints are servants of God.

Jesus is saying this to us in Matthew’s gospel. He lets us know that in the synagogues and the Temple, there were leaders: scholars and rabbis who sat in the “Moses Seat,” and they offered very helpful advice, taught with authority about God’s Word. However, Jesus warns, do as they say, not as they do. For they speak well, but do not live well, not setting an example of true greatness.

So Jesus’ message is a call to be servants. Jesus’ call to servant living flies in the face of all that we think it means to be great. He who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted. You probably have seen that even in churches when the leader might talk big but then doesn’t walk the walk. Like a coach who is so focused on winning, instead of the one who focuses on the players learn to play well, and enjoy doing it. Which coach would you rather play for?

The greatest is a servant. The one who causes you to feel thankful. The one who helps you make the most of your time on Planet Earth. The one who will always be a

special part of your memory. So let's remember those saints of our lives for a minute.  
Just call out their names when I ask you these questions.

Who taught you Sunday School?

Who baptized you?

Who was your confirmation teacher?

Who was the organist when you were growing up?

Who married you?

Who buried your mother or father or child?

Who taught you your first lesson of forgiveness?

“Thanks for the memory, to God for all the saints, for those who baptized us, the teachers and the preachers, the ones who taught us love. We thank God so much...”

Now you and I get to be next, saints to others. We get to encourage others to offer their gifts and talents to the glory of God. So one day, someone else will think of us, and thanking God. Amen.

**INVITATION:** Holy Communion is our joyful response to God's Irresistible Grace, and our keeping His commandment to remember Him with thanksgiving, in the way that the saints have been doing for centuries. The table may be different shaped, we may sit instead of stand or kneel, the bread looks different, the fruit of the vine may be different. But his grace remains the same. We thank God for the memory of his salvation work.

### **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Hear the words of the institution  
of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest,  
took bread, and after giving thanks to God,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**Take, eat.**

**This is my body, given for you.**

**Do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

**This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,**

**shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.**

Whenever you drink it,  
do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

With thanksgiving,  
let us offer God our grateful praise.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
Almighty and eternal God.

You rule over all times and ages,  
and your realm encompasses limitless space.

You have set us in this time and place  
to worship and serve you,  
to celebrate your love and the gift of life.

When we turned our back on you  
you remained faithful to us,  
calling us back to your righteous way.  
Then you spoke your Word in the flesh,  
sending your Son to save us and bring us home.

Therefore we praise you,  
with the saints who have gone before us  
and all the faithful of every time and place,  
singing with the choirs of heaven  
to the glory of your holy name:

**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.**

O God of majesty and might,  
your name is holy from age to age,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

In everything he announced the good news  
of your mighty realm of peace.

From the cross  
he reached out to embrace the world,

From the grave  
he rose to deliver us from death.  
Now he reigns with you in glory,  
ready to come again to make all things new.  
Remembering your generous love in Jesus Christ,  
we take this bread and this cup  
to celebrate his living and dying and rising again  
as we wait for his triumphant return.  
With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice,  
dedicated to your service.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

**In our prayers of the People, I will pause so if you desire to call out your prayer requests.**

**Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer**

God of grace and mercy,  
give us full measure of your Spirit,  
that the bread we break and the cup we share  
be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit so unite us with Christ  
that we may be one with the whole church.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.  
With your church in heaven and on earth, O God,  
we pray that you will accomplish what you have planned  
for us and for all the world. We pause now to call out our prayers to you.

*Intercessions and supplications...*

For Mary's sister, Virginia, with her new diagnosis of cancer  
For James in the hospital  
For all the names in our bulletin this morning  
For Troy Brake

Keep us steadfast in faith and service  
Until you return in victory  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.  
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray... **Amen.**

*Holding out both the bread and the cup to the people, the minister says:*

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.                      John 6:35  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.  
Come, for all is ready.

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, O God,  
that through Word and Sacrament  
you have given us your Son,  
who is the true bread from heaven  
and food of eternal life.  
So strengthen us in your service  
that our daily living may show our thankful praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Announcements:**

Be sure you pick up a Time and Talent survey, if you haven't already received one.  
Remember that although this church could use money, we also could use a donation of  
your special interests. Please complete the survey, for it's short, one page front and back.  
PW meeting is this Wednesday at noon! Potluck, and to elect officers. You might not be  
a Presbyterian woman yet, but if you are thinking of joining the church, and you are a  
woman, please come. We will also be reviewing the Domestic Violence ministry and  
talking about the purse project.  
Bell Choir Practice is today at 1:30PM. See you there, Ringers!  
Movie night is at 6:00PM this week. We will have "All the President's Men" starring  
Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman. Rated PG