

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 2, 2025

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

A Great Reward

It's a dramatic scene: that moment in a movie when a large family comes together for the reading of the last will and testament. Usually, a lawyer sits facing the assembly with a pile of papers. The family members sit on the edge of their seats in anticipation. As the camera pans around the room, we can imagine their thoughts: "What will I get?" "Which one of us will keep the mansion?" "How much will my inheritance be?"

This typical scene of "reading the will" gets flipped upside down on All Saints Sunday. Yes, All Saints Sunday is about the reality of death and what happens next. But on this day, instead of looking at a lawyer, we look to Jesus. We give thanks for the inheritance Jesus has already made possible for us through his death on the cross and his resurrection to eternal life.

Our inheritance from Jesus isn't only hope for the future. It's the fuel that helps us live today. When we are poor, we can trust that one day, God will give us his kingdom. When we are hungry, we can trust that God will fill us. Jesus' words assure us that he is with us now and that our reward is great in heaven. In him, God has conquered sin and death. Our inheritance as children of God is secure.

Jesus' words are a comfort to us. His promise about our inheritance fills us with hope, especially when we hear the names of those who have died in the past year read aloud on All Saints Sunday. Even as we grieve their loss, we trust that their reward is great in heaven. Because of God's reconciling love for all creation, the inheritance of eternal life belongs to us and to the saints who have gone before us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.