

Let us pray,

Lord, remind us of those who left us and are in your kingdom's fullness. May we learn from their mistakes and be inspired by their sainthood.

Amen.

All Saints Sunday is a Sunday to remember those who had passed in the last year since last All Saints Sunday.

It is also a time to reflect on those that we still mourn and remember.

Those who made an impact in our lives and inspire us to be better humans.

But it is also, most importantly, a reminder of Jesus Christ.

Who came to inspire us to work with him to bring heaven on earth and to provide us hope that when our pilgrimage on this earth is over, there is something better on the other side.

I think it is clever that the Lectionary authors put the Beatitudes on a Sunday where we remember the deceased.

Because the Beatitudes remind us about life today.

It isn't just a statement of preferential option for the poor, which is is.

But it is also a statement on life experience.

That no matter how successful or powerful or wealthy we may be, life guarantees hardship.

Happiness does not last forever.

But here is the flip side to that coin, neither does despair.

And what the beatitudes are reminding us is that our gaze should not be on seeking happiness.

Our Gaze should be towards those who are suffering, impoverished, imprisoned, grieving, in pain, hungry, and all things that us humans would classify as bad.

The beatitudes remind us that to bring heaven to earth, is to go to the people and the places that the world would rather leave behind.

It also means to enter into willingly, the experiences that we so desperately try to avoid.

Would we willingly enter into grief, to show love for another?

Would we willingly enter into hunger, to feed someone who is hungry?

Would we willingly give up our possessions to give to someone who has no possessions?

Would we willingly love our enemy and those who persecute us and say and do things that hurt us?

Are we willing to live the heavenly way and receive earthly pain, in order to bring heaven to earth?

We cannot expect the world to change if we are not first changed by our God to be loving even when unloved.

For All Saints we remember those who passed.

But I would also like us to think about, how would we like to be remembered?

If we died tomorrow, what would people remember about us?

That is a question that each one of us personally have to answer, and I know for me, there are things that I have not done or said or modeled that if I did die tomorrow, I would have felt ashamed not doing, saying or modeling.

We are all Saint and Sinner, we all do good and bad.

And there is Grace for us in our shortcomings.

But God does call us to be better, to be more merciful, loving and gracious.

Not to save our own souls, but to reclaim the core of why we were created in the first place.

Loving Mutual Relationship.

Lets all be better, not for our own souls but for our neighbors.

And may the lives of those we lost be inspirations or sources of change, to be better humans today.

Amen.