

Sisters and Brothers, blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Covenant Life

- The coordinators have discerned to have our next Community Gathering on Sunday November 15th at 4pm in the MSM gym. We will follow all CDC guidelines and send more specific details next week. If you can help, please contact your Area Coordinator or reply to this email.
- We have received several significant Word Gifts this month, please read and discern them on our website [here](#).
- Today we start our annual Promise Drive. It is important that we hear from everyone. This year we are adding an online way to submit your inputs [here](#).
- Highlights from the Celebration of Life for Patrick Powers are loaded [here](#).
- Safe environment training is available online this year [here](#).
- Please join your Area's online events and contact your Area Coordinator if you need information or assistance.
- Please donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Reflection - The readings today ask and answer two 'end times' questions: "*Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from? ... These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb*" and "*Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place? ... One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.*"

It seems appropriate on All Saints Day for the Church to call our attention to the multitude of saints who do not already have a special feast day. It is a day to honor our parents, our relatives, our covenant sisters and brothers, and the multitude of others who have passed before us, who have fought the good fight and set an example for us to follow.

It is also a day to reflect on our own journey. We too hope to be in this group as we are all called to be saints. So, who are they?

Jesus provides us the answer in the Gospel today. Those in heaven are the poor in spirit, the mourner, the meek, the merciful, the peacemaker, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, are the clean of heart, are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, are insulted and persecuted because of Him.

Today can be a day to reflect on the degree to which this describes us. Are we all of us these things all of the time? Certainly not. But this is the journey of life. We are here to journey, to journey together. To encourage and support one another. Our life is a type of purgatory where we are tested, purged, and pruned. It is a time of letting go and surrendering to our Lord. We learn surrender and obedience through suffering. If we do not harden our hearts, we grow in wisdom and grace and learn to value what really matters. This is what it means to be a people of the beatitudes. My men's group is reading Jacques Phillippe's book *The Eight Doors of the Kingdom* specifically on the beatitudes. We have been blessed by his words and I recommend the book for all individual and small group reading.

One key point that I would like to make is that the beatitudes are not meant to be a measuring stick regarding whether we are good enough. Undoubtedly we will read them and tend to focus on what we are still working on. But this is also a time to reflect on the journeys that we have already made. One day we will hear these words and realize that He is talking about us, that *we are not who we use to be*.

I would like to end with a word about our country and our election. Our prayer would be that the privilege of voting would bring us together as a country to celebrate the honor of free elections. Unfortunately, we appear to be more polarized than ever before. This, and our ferocious media, can create unhealthy gloom and doom fear and anxiety.

As Christians we have nothing to fear and we will persevere regardless of who wins any election. Our hope is in the Lord God and His protection. Recall how God

cared for His people Israel as described in Deuteronomy 1:31. God is described as a Father carrying His child. God has always been with us, individually, as a Community, and as a nation. He will always be with us and carry us. This is a time for trust!

Let us pray: "Heavenly Father, I repent of the times I have focused only on myself and neglected You and those You have entrusted into my care. I pledge today to follow Your Son Jesus and His example. Give me Your Holy Spirit that I may be poor in spirit, a mourner, meek, merciful, and a peacemaker. Make me hunger and thirst for righteousness, with a clean heart, even if it means being persecuted for the sake of righteousness or insulted and persecuted because of You. I love You."

God bless,
David