

## All Saints

October 31 - November 1, 2009 – Christ the King

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November is a quiet month for reflecting. The leaves have fallen, we prepare for winter, there is a calm before the busy Christmas season. The days are shorter, we will enter the waiting period of Advent, school is back into a routine, and Veterans Day reminds us how lucky and sad we are that others continue to die for us. We celebrate Thanksgiving and are grateful for so many blessings. (*D. Murphy – Celebration, November 2003, 483*)

For the Christian, November begins with celebrating the “dead.” We publicly recognize those saints the church has give us to follow. We also remember others who have died, because we know in our hearts that they are also saints — though not officially recognized outside of our homes and hearts. We pause to remember so that we won’t forget. (D. Murphy)

The Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed” celebrate this reality of our connection. We believe in something called the “Communion of Saints,” which basically means that all of us daughters and sons of God, both living on earth and living in the final life, are connected... probably more closely than we realize. We can interact with one another in ways that are mysterious but extremely real. (*J. Auer*)

This is most true here in the house of the Church, summoned by Christ. to gather around this dining-table-turned-altar.

And it is *our* lives lived in common,  
with and for each other,

that God desires be placed on this table  
in the signs of bread and wine.

And it is *our* hearts – our very selves –  
that God longs for us to lift up at this altar.

We give to God our hearts — baked into **this** bread.

We give to God our lives — all the pain and promise,  
joy and grief, wrung from them  
like this wine crushed from grapes.

We put all that on this table,  
and God accepts it and makes it holy and gives it back to us  
as the body and blood of Christ.

The bread, the wine, we — the world —  
All of this is changed here.

More than food is put on this table, and more than we who live now gather around it. The body of Christ is not only on this table; the body of Christ is also *at* this table. Ringing around us at this table are the members of this community who once worshiped here and who have gone before us in death. And ringing around us at this table are the saints whose hearts are lifted up to God. And ringing around us at this table are the martyrs, ancient like Agnes and recent like Romero, who gave their lives in perfect imitation of Christ, their bones broken like bread and their blood spilled out like wine.

It is here that the awesome mystery of the Communion of Saints is made real. **All** Souls throughout **all** ages are gathered together, bridging the gap between time and eternity, uniting as one communion, one body in Christ.

So, I invite you to remember someone who has died, perhaps in this past year. If you want, write their name on one of the paper circles in the pew. During our Litany of Remembrance, you can bring the circle forward and place in the basket. We will use these during the month of November.

And so we pause in prayer and in Holy Remembrance:

Hold them in prayer.

Ask God to wash clean anything that remains painful between you.

Let go of any unfinished business.

Celebrate the love of God that sustains and unites us in communion.