



Wednesday Prayer

All Saints Sunday – Blessed are those who mourn

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven." Luke 6:20-23a

This Sunday we honor those who have died, those we have loved, and our communion of saints together with Christ. In this sermon of blessings, Jesus was doing what he was always doing – raising up the poor, the hungry, the abused, the marginalized. His message of hope and joy is specifically for those who cry, those who live in what seems to be unending suffering. Eternal blessings will be theirs.

Each year, Breaking Free, a social justice organization serving people who have been impacted by trafficking, hosts a candlelight vigil to honor women “lost to the life.” Today, we join in praying for these women and their families, for eternal blessings and peace.

Stacey Dow, survived by her 9 children

Amber Hopkins, was 5 weeks pregnant

Jody Tucker, and her unborn child William James

Kristin Okochi, survived by her 3 children

Gennie Marie Kingbird

*And many more loved ones who died prior to 2019,
remembered by their sisters in Christ.*

As we gather this Sunday to remember, let us also remember the suffering of those who have died from domestic violence, trafficking and exploitation, addictions, and long-term health issues resulting from violence and trauma. Let us continue to work toward communities free from violence, following your clear example in the world.

God of hope, we pray for those who lost their lives while suffering here on earth, knowing you have brought them eternal peace and blessings. We pray for their families and loved ones, that they know and trust in your promise. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.