



Wednesday Prayer

All Saints Sunday – Together with Saints of all times

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
1 John 3:1-3

As we approach All Saints Sunday, we're reminded that we are part of a great cloud of witnesses, the communion of saints, as we confess through the Apostles Creed. We're not only one with our fellow disciples on earth, but we're also in communion with the saints who have gone before us, and who will come after us all over the world. God created us to live in community. Nurturing our faith and growing in our discipleship happens within the context of the saints of all times and in all places. Healing the brokenness of the world also happens in this context; we join together with the generations.

Martin Luther reminds us that we are both saint and sinner at the same time. None of us are perfect. Some people among us – before and after us – do great harm and cause great pain in our world, including those who exploit children and youth through sex trafficking. It's up to the rest of us, as called and baptized children of God, to join together in community to help prevent and to help heal the pain caused by others.

Preventing and healing pain and trauma happens through relationships. When we live out our sainthood by praying for all children, educating about and providing examples for healthy relationships, and providing a safe place for youth and children to gather, we can prevent the harm caused by others. When we help to provide food and shelter for survivors, listen to and validate their stories, and remind them of God's never-ending love for them, we can help them heal from the trauma of exploitation.

Beloved, we are God's children now.

God brings us together into the communion of saints to empower us to be healers of the broken places in the world through our relationships with each other and our relationships with God.

Gracious God, you have blessed and healed us with your love, and we pray that together we will help to heal and bless others around us in your name. Amen.

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