

## **Communion of All Saints in Christ Revelation 21:1-6a**

An experienced traveler always carries a compass. Even if they don't use it often, when it's needed, they can quickly find their way with it. But before compasses, what did travelers use to guide them? They looked to the sky, to the stars, finding their direction there. For us, the most essential guide to keep us from losing our way in life is Jesus Christ. But sometimes, Jesus can feel distant. Following the "perfect and blameless Son of God" can seem overwhelming, and the path he showed may feel out of reach. In those moments, we need to remember the saints who walked beside us, shared love, and traveled with us in faith. Their presence and example help us to keep going.

Today, on All Saints Sunday, we remember and celebrate the lives of saints who have touched our lives. We recall names like Marjorie Biron, Thomas Brierly, Stanley French, David Keene, Kathleen Martin-Estus, Marc Merlan, Linda Mills, Shirley Nuttall, and Otis Wyatt. The saints we honor today were not perfect or superhuman. They faced doubt and struggles just like we do. They made mistakes, just like we do. But they shared love with us and followed Jesus, not as flawless people but as faithful disciples. Through their love, through their service, we have experienced God's love and care firsthand. Like the small candles we've lit, they have shared their light with us, making our lives brighter and richer. They have finished their journey here on earth and now rest in heaven. Though they are no longer with us physically, their spiritual legacy lives on within us, guiding us like stars in the sky, especially when we feel lost.

On this day, we not only remember the saints who walked with us, but we're also reminded of our final destination. Our journey here begins with birth and ends with death. No one can avoid this. Some travel this path for many decades or more, while others, like Grace, walk it for a shorter time. But in the end, we will all reach our eternal home with God.

Today's scripture from Revelation 21 gives us a beautiful vision of that ultimate destination. John shares what he saw—a new heaven and a new earth. He describes God's promise of a future where "God's dwelling place is now among the people," and God "will wipe every tear from their eyes." There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, for the old order has passed away.

When we hear these words, we're invited to see beyond our own struggles and limitations to a life where God's love makes all things new. This is the hope we hold onto, knowing that God's kingdom will come—not through our efforts, but as a gift of God's grace and presence among us. Yes, this is where we are destined to reach, and where the saints before us have already arrived. We will be in God's eternal kingdom, and our Lord, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, will one day wipe away every tear and offer the water of life to all who thirst.

As we honor the saints who have journeyed before us, we hold onto the hope God has promised to us all. While we may not know how long each of us will walk this earthly path, we can walk with courage and faith, knowing that our true home is secure in God's love. One day, we will gather in that kingdom of everlasting joy—all our tears wiped away, every thirst satisfied. We will join together with the saints we hold dear, sharing in communion that knows no end. Until that day, let us walk in love, remembering those who have shown us the way and carrying their light forward. Amen.