

# An Order of Worship for the Home

November 1, 2020 – All Saints Day  
What We've Lost – week 1

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*This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can worship with you by phone.*

*There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org) to give online.*

## Opening Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup>a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

<sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

## Invocation

Reader 1: There is a time to remember what we've lost.

Reader 2: The people, the time, and even our sense of direction.

Reader 1: It is appropriate to grieve, but we do not grieve as this world.

Reader 2: We grieve, and we hope.

Reader 1: We gather in our grief with hope supplied by our God,

Reader 2: Who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Together: Amen

### Psalm 149:1-4

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the godly!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with salvation.

### Confession & Absolution

*Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in faith. Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered.*

Christian Confessing: I place my hope in the wrong things far too often. I want government to provide help. I want schools to provide answers. I want medicine to provide safety. My hope gets side-tracked by all of these and more. I have placed hope in the wrong things, and I am sorry for that. Restore me, God, for the sake of Jesus. Restore my hope.

Christian Responding: Your God is the God of hope. Jesus is God who became man in order to bring hope to this world. By his death and resurrection hope has broken through. His promise to return is your ultimate hope. You are loved by God. You are forgiven by God. He is your hope and salvation!

Together: Amen.

### Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and

worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>[a]</sup> of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## Message

### Grieve *and* Hope

I want you to take a minute to read something out loud. Speak the words of Ephesians 3:14-19 to yourself and anyone who might be worshipping with you. If you're gathered with a family member or friend, read these words together:

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19)*

I wanted you to read that out loud, because I anticipated doing so would slow you down. It slows me down. I read much faster when I'm not speaking the words out loud. When I read with someone, as we do in church, it slows me down even more. There's value in that.

There's value in giving our time. When I give more time to reading (as we just did by reading out loud) I listen differently. Beyond that, I'm reminded that these things are worth my time. I don't know about you, but I often need to slow down so that I can remind myself which things are valuable enough to receive my time and attention.

Over the next three weeks, we'll slow down and reflect on What We've Lost. We've lost plenty over the past 7 months – some related to covid 19, and some losses which would have occurred anyway. It's worth taking time to acknowledge the losses. It's worth grieving our losses, because what we've lost has value. We've lost friends. We've lost time. We've lost direction, possibly.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, we're told there is “a time to mourn.” As we reflect on those words we're reminded that it actually takes time to mourn. Grieving our losses requires time. It deserves time.

This week, while in conversation with a friend we touched on loss. We talked about how we take time to acknowledge the things we've lost. She pointed to music and prayer. I tend to journal and seek out one-on-one conversation. We need spaces where we can allow ourselves to feel the weight and acknowledge pain of grief. We do not dwell on these things; neither do we gloss over them. The former ignores our hope found in Christ, and the latter ignores the brokenness of this world caused by sin.

Over the summer, our sister Bev Green passed away. I loved the time I had to know Bev. She would have a hug for me every Sunday morning (and sometimes a kiss, too). It always made me smile. Many of you knew Bev far longer and more closely than I. Because we weren't gathering in person this summer, there was no funeral for Bev. We didn't gather as a community. We didn't carve out that time. I hope some of you still found ways to take time to grieve.

Many of you have lost other friends or family this year. You've lost parents or grandparents, brothers or sisters, cousins or other family, co-workers, friends, and neighbors. Friends and family are valuable. They're worth the time it takes to grieve well. I hope you've been able to take that time.

There's a story in Matthew's gospel which tells us about Jesus taking time to grieve. His cousin was John the Baptist. John was imprisoned for condemning the king's adulterous relationship with his half-brother's wife. During his imprisonment, John was executed. Immediately following this, those who had been close to John bring news to Jesus, and we read this:

*Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. (Matthew 14:13)*

Jesus needed to grieve this loss. This was his cousin; they were born just 6 months apart. John was also his forerunner in mission. John had just died for filling his role as God's prophet. In more than one way, John's death would have rattled Jesus. Jesus withdrew, because this loss should not – could not – be ignored.

But if you know the story, you remember that this plan didn't work out. Jesus was followed by crowds of people. They had brought their sick and hurting friends and family to him. Instead of grieving, Jesus spent the rest of the day healing. Ecclesiastes may say there is a time for all things, but this was not the time for mourning. Jesus heals the sick, and then he miraculously feeds 5000 families who had gathered there. That's the part of the story we've heard told and re-told. Now, pay attention to what takes place at the very end of that day.

*Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. (Matthew 14:22-23)*

When the news about John came, there was no time to grieve. There were other needs. Grieving was put on hold. But, there was still a need to give time to his grieving. There was a need to acknowledge what was lost. Jesus took that time.

I want us to take that time too. How do we do that? It's like the reading out loud we did at the beginning of this message. We find ways to slow down. We create opportunities to give our time to what is important. The family and friends we've lost are important. They're worth the time we give to grieve their loss.

As friends we grieve. As believers, we also hope.

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13)*

Hope does not negate grief. In Jesus you have hope in abundance, yet you also grieve. Your Lord grieved when he felt the pain of loss, and you grieve as well. However, you grieve differently from this world. You grieve *and* you hope.

That's what this Sunday is really all about. The first of November is All Saints Day, which is not a reference to a group of extra-holy people who bear a title different from the rest of us commonplace believers. All Saints Day celebrates all believers. A saint is one who is made holy, and that's what you are because of all Jesus has done for you. You are holy. You are a saint. Our friends and family who died believing in Jesus are saints as well. Today we celebrate all these saints, and our place with them. We grieve our temporary separation from those we've lost, but we grieve with hope, knowing that we share an eternal bond in the life of Jesus.

Jesus is true man. He hurt like you and I. He felt loss like you and I. The pain of grief which comes when we're separated from people we love... Jesus knows what that's like. He grieved his cousin's death. He also cried at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus.

But Jesus wasn't just a man. He is true God. He is God who chose to take on human flesh. As true God, he still lives and has promised to return physically to take us to be with him. He has plans for a new heavens and a new earth. He has plans for a setting

where there is no more pain or hurt. He has plans for the end of grieving. As we read earlier in worship...

*They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.  
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Revelation  
7:16-17)*

In Jesus, God died. God took on himself the ultimate consequence of sin in this world. He took the pain and hurt, the mourning and grief we feel, and he carried it to the cross. He bore these for us.

And in Jesus, we see the first human being raised to new life. As God shared in our humanity, we now share in his resurrection life. In him we see the death of death. In him we receive life and hope.

On All Saints Day we're reminded that this gift is shared. We have life in Christ. We – who are all part of the body of Christ – celebrate a shared hope in Jesus with all saints from all times.

When we consider what we've lost, it's alright to grieve. All Saints Day reminds us that we grieve *and* hope. We do this together with all of God's people, knowing grief will come to an end, but hope reigns eternal.

Amen.

### Offering Prayer

*If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.*

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings.

Together: Receive us as your own.

### Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

*Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Blessing

Reader 1: We grieve for what we've lost.  
Reader 2: Our God was grieved when he lost us.  
Reader 1: We take comfort because our grief is known to our God.  
Reader 2: We find hope because our God has made his plans known to us.

Reader 1: Go as one who is known by God!  
Reader 2: Go in the hope God provides!  
Reader 1: Go, and know that your God goes with you,  
Reader 2: The God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Together: Amen.

### An Invitation to Act

This week, give yourself time to grieve. Remember the people you've lost in the past year (or longer). Light a candle, lay a wreath, write a letter, share memories with a friend, or find another way to take time. Our relationships are worth the time, so give time by slowing down a bit. Then, remember the hope you have in Christ. Do not grieve as this world does, but allow yourself to grieve *and* hope.

*As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org). We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.*

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