

REMEMBERING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

All Saints Sunday | November 1, 2026

Psalm 34:1–10, 22 | Matthew 5:1–12

The People Who Are Still With Us

Have you ever found yourself doing something and suddenly realized, “That’s exactly what my mother used to do!” Or perhaps you said something and thought, “Oh my goodness, I sound just like my father!” Sometimes a familiar song, a photograph, or even a favorite meal brings back memories of someone we love. For a moment, it feels as though that person is right there with us. My saints of Advent, isn’t it remarkable how people can leave this world, yet continue to shape our lives? Today, on All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us. But I want us to look beyond their absence and recognize something beautiful: **the goodness of God that came into our lives through them.**

Looking Back, We See God’s Goodness

Listen to David’s words in Psalm 34:1: “I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Now, David did not say this because everything in his life was wonderful. This Psalm remembers a time when he had escaped danger. Imagine David looking back and saying, “I was afraid. I didn’t know what would happen next. But God brought me through!” That is why he says in verse 4, “I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

And isn’t that how life works sometimes? When we are going through something difficult, we may not recognize how God is working. But years later, we look back and say, “Now I understand why that person came into my life. Now I see how God was helping me.” Think about your own journey. Who encouraged you when

you were ready to give up? Who prayed for you when you could hardly find the words to pray? Who believed in you when you doubted yourself? Some are still here. Others have gone before us. But through them, we experienced something of God's goodness.

God's Goodness Has a Human Face

Then David says something wonderful in verse 8: "O taste and see that the LORD is good." Taste and see! David is not asking us simply to agree that God is good. He is inviting us to experience that goodness. And very often, **God's goodness comes to us with a human face.** It may be the face of a mother who never stopped praying, a father who quietly made sacrifices, a friend who showed up without being asked, or a church member who made us feel that we belonged.

And that brings us to today's Gospel. Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). Notice, Jesus does not say, "Blessed are those who never experience loss." He knows that love sometimes brings tears. He knows that an empty chair can still hurt, even after many years. But he promises that grief will not have the final word. Because Christ is risen, death does not have the final word either. **We remember with tears, but we also remember with hope.**

Now It Is Our Turn

But let me ask you something. What if the people we remember today could see how we are living? Would they recognize the love they shared with us? Would they see that the faith they planted is still growing? Would they be proud of us? You see, the kindness we received was never meant to end with us. Someone welcomed us; now we can welcome someone else. Someone listened to us; now

we can listen to another person. Someone helped us know Jesus; now we have an opportunity to help another person experience his love.

So this week, I invite you to do something simple. **Remember one person who has been a blessing in your life. Thank God for that person. Then pass on one act of kindness that reflects what you received.** It may be a phone call, a visit, a prayer, or an encouraging word. Nothing complicated. Just let God's goodness continue its journey through you.

What Will They Remember About Us?

One day someone may sit where we are sitting today and remember us. What will come to their minds? Perhaps not the things we owned or the positions we held. Perhaps they will remember that we cared, that we prayed, that we made room for them, or that we helped them through a difficult day.

And wouldn't it be wonderful if someone could look back on our lives and say, "Through that person, I experienced the goodness of God"?

Today we thank God for the saints who came before us. We trust the promise of Christ, who holds them and us in his love. And we ask God to make our lives a blessing to those who come after us.

Someone helped you taste and see that the Lord is good.

Now let someone else taste and see that goodness through you.

And may the goodness of God continue from one life to another, from one generation to the next, until we are gathered together in the presence of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.