



**Community of St. Bridget**  
*an inclusive catholic experience*

**Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 3, 2024**

**All Saints Day (11/1) and All Souls Day (11/2)**

Liturgists: Tess Veloso and Donna M. Mazzola



*Photo Credit: Radiant Light by Elizabeth Wang (Pinterest)*

**Suggestion:** Please have a copy of the written liturgy and a piece of bread and cup of wine/grape juice, so you can participate fully in this liturgy.

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Come in. Come into this place that we make special by our very presence.  
Where the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, and the  
compassionate is expected.

**ALL:** Together we make this a holy place with our every act of celebration.

With the flame of St. Bridget, we proclaim the transformative power of God. We  
give thanks that God's transforming love has been, is now, and will ever be at  
work within us and in all creation. Amen.

Opening Song: **Breaths** – Sweet Honey in the Rock; lyrics by Ysaya Barnwell

<https://youtu.be/YwLgxyVjwk4?si=6dvs-WbMz6ojfm8a> (fade out 3:00-3:15) (no video)

**Refrain:** Listen more often to things than to beings  
Listen more often to things than to beings  
'Tis the ancestor's breath when the fire's voice is heard  
'Tis the ancestor's breath in the voice of the water.

Those who have died have never, never left  
The dead are not under the earth  
They are in the rustling trees  
They are in the groaning woods  
They are in the crying grass,  
They are in the moaning rocks  
The dead are not under the earth. **R**

Those who have died have never, never left.  
The dead have a pact with the living.  
They are in the woman's breast,  
They are in the wailing child  
They are with us in our homes.  
They are with us in the crowd  
The dead have a pact with the living. **R**

Today, we celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Feast of All Saints, and the Feast of All Souls. In this season of change and letting go, we remember those who have gone before, all those of whom we have let go, but whose presence we still seek. We call to mind the witness of their lives and how we are in the world because of them. The readings today remind us that God's love is extended to us in many ways and through many people. And so we begin our prayer in the name of the Divine: Source of All That Is, Eternal Word, and Holy Wisdom Sophia. Amen.

Transformation Rite\* adapted from *Prayers of Honoring Voice* by Pixie Lighthorse  
We gather in community, acknowledging our struggles and sorrows on this side of the veil. We do this without pretense, that we may more fully embrace the gift of our humanity.

1. When it seems like everyone around us has it together, help us see that we are not alone. Give us compassion for others who nervously retreat, and help us offer them understanding.

**ALL:** We bless this, our human life.

2. When we are in the presence of another's upset, encourage us to trust that we can speak the simplest words about what is happening and be effective.

**ALL:** We bless this, our human life.

3. When our hope wanes, quiet the doubts that hinder us. Keep us embodied and grounded to earth. Put healers on our path to help us release our resistance to what is.

**ALL:** We bless this, our human life.

4. Let us hold precious the memory of those who have crossed over by letting them be part of us. Ferry our heart's grief across the seas to connect with all those who are aching with loss. Hear our sorrowful voices mingling in one powerful song of love.

**ALL:** We bless this, our human life.

We raise our voices as one, giving glory to the Holy One:

Gloria: ***Praise, Give Glory to God*** by Denise Pyles on *Creation of Love*, © 2010-03-19.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tA22QokvwPA> (no video; begin 0:20)

Praise, praise, give glory to God!  
Nations, peoples, give glory!  
Strong the love embracing us,  
Faithful our God forever.  
Alleluia, alleluia! (x3)

### Opening Prayer

Spirit Sophia, Breath of God, as we gather together today, we look back in awe and gratitude for the gifts bestowed on us through the efforts of a long chain of humanity. We acknowledge all the souls who have come before us. We look to the saints to show us how to hand over to the generations that follow, Your original blessings—a world of justice, peace, and beauty.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD\*\*

*We experience the Spirit of Our Living God as we listen to  
the Scripture readings broken open and shared by all.*

**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

Hear O Israel: The Name that is Holy, our God, is One.  
Love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with  
all your strength. Write these words...in your heart. Recite  
them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home

and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.  
Bind them as a sign on your hand. Fix them as an emblem on  
your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your home and  
on your entryways.

The inspired words of our ancient spiritual tradition. Amen.

**Responsorial:** Wisdom 3:1-9, 13-14

**Cantor:** *God's grace and compassion are on the holy ones.*

The souls of the just are in the hand of God.  
No torment will ever touch them.  
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died.  
Their departure was thought to be a disaster,  
    their leaving us to be their end.  
But they are at peace. **R**

In the time of their visitation, they will shine forth:  
    they will run like sparks through the stubble;  
    they will govern nations and rule over peoples, like the stars;  
    they will enjoy cosmic glory forever. **R**

Those who trust in God understand truth.  
Those who sought God now abide with God in love.  
Grace and compassion are now upon the holy ones.  
They are God's chosen. **R**

**Cantor:** Alleluias

**Second Reading - Gospel:** Matthew 5:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel attributed to Matthew:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside and after he sat  
down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

“Blessed are those who are poor in spirit:  
    the kingdom of heaven is theirs.  
Blessed are those who are mourning:  
    they will be consoled.  
Blessed are those who are gentle:  
    they will inherit the land.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:  
    they will have their fill.  
Blessed are those who show mercy to others:  
    they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are those whose hearts are clean:

they will see God.  
Blessed too are those who work for peace:  
they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted  
because of their struggle for justice:  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

The inspired Word of the evangelist, Matthew. Amen.

**Cantor:** Alleluias

Shared Homily: Donna Mazzola

Remember that staticky sound when you turned the knob on the radio to find your favorite station? Then, that moment when your music came in perfectly? Much thanks to our FM tuners. FM—frequency modulation—operates in a very high frequency and is less susceptible to interference...less audible static.

What can we do in the midst of the interference of sounds that feed into our fears and anxieties? Sounds which take us away from a centered and grounded way of living in unwavering faith and hope? Our readings today honor the Communion of Saints and offer us ways to attune to the Great Love that Loves us.

The first reading, the start of the Shema, is prominent in all Jewish liturgy. Our Jewish friends recite it with hands over the eyes in the morning and at day's end. *Hear O Israel...our God, is One.* Love your God with full heart, full soul, and all your strength. (Because...this is how we are loved.) Write these words on your doorposts, bind it to your hand...breathe it, talk it, walk it. Clear guidance for attuning to the Love that Loves us.

We hear Jesus say in the Beatitudes, that to be blessed and happy is not about conforming to laws, but in having a simple, and open heart that awakens us to the presence of God. He advocates a way that stands in opposition to the standards of our world—values which often sound like static and interference. Each beatitude is a wild wisdom that invites us to turn our way of life upside down.

The Beatitudes give us a description of the Communion of Saints—those who are on our side, rooting for us: the poor in spirit, the ones who know how to grieve, the gentle, those who struggle for justice and liberation, the forgiving and merciful, those who fall, fail, yet get up again. Today we remember and celebrate holiness like theirs.

We embrace this communion of holy ones, our Spirit Team. They inspire us to a higher frequency of living. We humans thrive with the support of community,

teachers, and ancestors, both seen and unseen. By regularly invoking and thanking them, we nourish these relationships and invite their hands of support on our backs.

May these beloveds be our insurance, keep us in touch, come in our dreams, empower who we are, how we walk and speak. May the ancestors help us in ways they couldn't when they were here—help us lay down our burdens, be with us in our struggles. May the saints walk with us toward joy. May our beloved ones, teach us ways to connect with them, arms reaching back for reassurance and giving us reasons to grow our mustard seeds of faith, beyond our forgetting.

*I invite you to share how the readings and reflections have spoken to you.*

*Holding these thoughts in the sacred space among us and strengthened by the support of one another, we now proclaim our affirmation of faith:*

#### Affirmation of Faith\*\*\*

5. We have faith  
in one God, one Source of all life,  
one Ground of the whole Earth,  
who created all things good.
  
6. And we have faith  
in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to  
bear God's likeness in working and caring for Creation,  
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,  
in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.
  
7. And we have faith  
in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and  
compassionate life-style.  
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,  
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.  
So be it. Amen.

#### Prayer of the Faithful

Knowing our God is faithful, generous, and abiding, let us bring to this Table our cares and concerns—for ourselves, our loved ones, and our world. Our response is: ***We awaken to your call.***

*For whom and for what shall we pray?*

Eternal Source of Life, help us discover how we can be most useful, for we long to see a world where there is joy, where it is safe to live, and where everyone

belongs. Show us the way to nourish one another. Empower us to co-create this world as you intend it to be. Amen.

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### Sign of Peace

As we prepare this sacred meal, we reaffirm that just as Jesus was anointed, so is each of us. And so, we celebrate our Creator's fruitful love as we extend our blessing to one another with joy. May the peace that our brother Jesus offers be always with us!

#### Offertory (All raise bread and cup)

We place on our plate the harvest to be won by labor's love. And into the cup we pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from the Earth's fruits.

**ALL:** O Gracious One, giver of the gifts we bring, receive them from your church gathered here today, affirming the sacrament of your Presence among us.

#### Prayer Over the Gifts

O Holy One, in these gifts you give us food for body and spirit. May our strength be renewed by your generous blessings that will bring us health of mind and body. Amen.

The Holy One is with us, abounding in Love!

1. Giving thanks to the Source of All Life, we open our hearts in the name of Jesus, who lives and loves, heals and empowers, through us.
2. We praise you, O God of wonder and life, as we celebrate Jesus' life and ministry and as witness to the life of compassion and love we are all called to live. We now lift up our hearts with the choirs of angels:

**Holy, Holy, Holy** Sacred Dance Guild (video and choreography by Betsey Beckman)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQnVcqj-XpE> (video)

We are holy, holy, holy (x3)  
We are whole.

We are holy, holy, holy (x3)  
We are whole.

3. Creator God, we see around us the work of your hands, the fruit of your wisdom and love. The unfolding story of creation witnesses unceasingly

to your creative power. We, your creatures, often deviate from that wisdom, hindering your creative presence in our midst.

4. Sending among us Jesus, our Light and Hope, you birth afresh in our world the power of Sophia Wisdom, and in the gift of the Spirit, your creative goodness blooms anew, amid the variety and wonder of life.

**ALL:** Spirit of Life, all that exists is blessed and enlivened by your presence. May these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, and our very lives, be the nourishment we need to sustain us.

5. As a Christian people we celebrate the Open Table, proclaimed by Jesus our liberator and our friend, a Table of abundant life, inclusive love, and liberation, where all are welcome, and from which no one is to be excluded.

At this gathering, we take bread, as Jesus took bread, and we remember, as Jesus remembered, the constant presence of the Spirit of Life and Love. And Jesus offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise bread)**

**ALL:** *Take and eat, all of you.  
This is my very Self which I give to strengthen you.*

Jesus then raised a cup of blessing, spoke the grace, and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise cup)**

**ALL:** *Take and drink this Cup of Life, the Covenant made new again through my life in you. Whenever you remember me like this, I am among you.*

We give thanks for who we are in Christ:

**ALL:** Matter becomes conscious, the universe coming to reflect on itself: earthen vessels that hold a treasure, temple of God's Spirit, the Body of Christ.

**(All raise bread and cup)**

**ALL:** For it is through learning to live as Jesus lived,  
And why he lived,  
And for whom he lived,  
That we awaken to your Spirit within,  
Moving us to worship you truly,  
Life-giving God,  
At this time, and all time, and in all ways.

**Cantor:** Amen!



## Communion Rite

We pray as these gifts are shared among us:

6. Loving God, you call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice.  
*We will live justly.*
7. Loving God, you call us to be your presence in the world.  
*We will love tenderly.*
1. Loving God, you call us to speak truth to power.  
*We will walk with integrity in your abiding presence.*

### **(Presider raises bread and cup)**

This is the Bread and Cup of Life, through which we are nourished, and we nourish one another.

**ALL:** We receive this bread and fruit of the vine as the presence of Christ among us!

*All are welcome to receive at our Tables of Friendship!*

Communion Meditation: ***We Remember Them*** by Trish Bruxvoort Colligan from *The Love of Thousands: Singing with Angels, Saints & Ancestors* (2023).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPPCyFfdZMY> (no video; fade out 3:55)

We remember them in the rising moon.  
We remember them in the mourning dove.  
When the waters rush upon the shore  
We remember them singing ever more.

We remember them in the blowing wind.  
We remember them in the rustling leaves.  
When the buds unfurl into the spring,  
We remember them and we try to sing.

We remember them in the fallen tree  
We remember them in the candle flame  
When the blue of the sky opens wide  
We remember them and keep their songs alive.

And they too shall live.  
As they are woven into us.

We remember them in the rising moon.  
We remember them in the morning dawn.  
When the waters rush upon the shore  
We remember them singing ever more.

I remember you singing ever more.  
I remember you singing ever more.  
I remember you singing ever more.  
I remember you singing ever more.

Together, we lift our voices in the Name of Jesus:\*\*\*\*

2. O Creative Breath, ebbing and flowing through all forms,  
soften the ground of our being and hollow a place  
for the planting of your presence.
3. Moving to the heartbeat of your purpose,  
make us the embodiment of your compassion.  
fill us with your creativity, that we might bear the fruit of your vision.
4. Give us the wisdom to produce and share what each one needs  
to grow and flourish. Untie the tangled webs of destiny that binds us  
as we release others from the entanglements of past mistakes.
5. And let us not be seduced by that  
which would divert us from our true purpose,  
but illuminate the path before us.

**ALL:** For you are the ground of the fruitful vision,  
the birthing power, and the fulfillment,  
as all is gathered and made whole once again. Amen.

#### Closing Prayer

O God of Compassion and Grace, we thank you for the blessing of connection  
which goes deeper than human knowing. We come into the world in mystery  
and we go away the same. We honor the gifts of life. May all here carry forward  
the goodness, the love, and courage of the blessed ones who've gone before us.  
May we go forth from this place empowered by your strengthening presence.  
Amen.

#### Announcements

Blessing \*\*\*\*\**Please extend your hands to bless one another:*

6. As twilight makes a rainbow robe  
From the concealed colors of day  
May we lose no one we love  
From the shelter of our hearts.
7. When we love another heart  
And allow that heart to love us,  
We journey deep below time  
Where nothing unravels.
1. May we have the grace to see  
That whoever we have loved,  
Such love can never quench.
2. Though we see them no more,  
May we be able to view  
Our lost loved ones with eyes  
Wise with calming grace.
3. May warmth come again to  
Where the heart has frozen.  
May we celebrate the gifts they brought,  
May we learn and grow from their knowing,  
And prosper into abiding love.

**ALL:** We go into this week, held together by the love of God,  
clothed with the nature of Jesus our Companion, and  
reinforced by the strength of the +Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Song: ***All Saints Day*** – by Carrie Newcomer from *Regulars and Refugees*  
<https://youtu.be/GQefafxbS9E?si=dZqR72pF7pgfIZQM> (lyric/video)

All around us and within us  
And yet it's only at times we notice  
As real as rain and soft as stardust  
We know deep down what nobody told us

**Refrain:** Can't you feel it ever closer  
We breathe it in and then we exhale  
We touch both sides and now eternal  
Standing closer to the veil.

Now is just a moving image  
Not a ribbon, a start and end  
There is a bird, a hidden singer  
That calls and listens, and calls again. **R**

Centered down and moving outward  
Sometimes almost too sweet to bare  
There are endless ways to reach home  
Just keep walking and I'll meet you there. **R** (x2)

There's a blurring of the borders  
And I swear that I heard voices  
But every act of simple kindness  
Calls the kingdom down and all around us. **R**

***Thank you for your courage to worship in a spirit of equality and justice!  
You are welcome to join us again—and to invite a friend—to support  
this Community with your presence and prayer.***

- \* Transformation Rite adapted from *Prayers of Honoring Voice* by Pixie Lighthorse
- \*\* The first reading is from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary made available through the Women's Ordination Conference. The Psalm and Gospel are from the Quixote Center – All Saints Day.
- \*\*\* Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlag-shaus, Gütersloh 1998. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003)
- \*\*\*\* Jesus Prayer: An interpretation from the Aramaic, Center for Christogenesis (online).
- \*\*\*\*\*Blessing "For Lost Friends" (adapted) *To Bless the Space Between Us* by John O'Donohue