

*Looking Out My Window, November 5, 2021*

November 1st. is The Feast of All Faithful Departed, or All Saints Day, in the Episcopal calendar of the church year. This feast is one of the seven principle feasts of the Christian year, along with Easter Day, Ascension Day, The Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Christmas Day, and Epiphany Day (January 6).

This Feast day, or the Sunday following, is one of four days in the liturgical year when we renew our baptismal vows, and it is one of the four days when it is especially appropriate to observe the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. *The Book of Common Prayer* allows that All Saints Day may be observed on the Sunday following, which we shall do on Sunday, November 7th.

We say each Sunday in the Nicene Creed, "I believe in . . . the communion of saints." In three of the Eucharistic Prayers our relationship with the saints receives mention, as in Prayer D: "And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with Mark) and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past." (*BCP*, p. 375)

The Outline of the Faith (Catechism, *BCP*, p. 862) defines the communion of the saints in this way: "The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise."

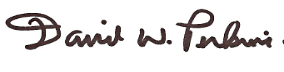
We believe that we united with Christ by faith, and the faithful departed certainly are. They are the church triumphant, living in the nearer presence of God. We are the church militant, still engaged in God’s mission in the world. We find our living bond with the departed through our bond with the living Christ.

Each Sunday at Holy Communion, we join " . . . our voices with Angels,

Archangels, and all the company of heaven . . . " (*BCP*, p. 362). We sing the hymn referred to as The Sanctus together with those in heaven who forever sing it before the throne of God (Revelation 4:8). Time stands still in our liturgy and joins with eternity in the worship of God.

Not only do we join the saints in worship; we also receive encouragement and enlightenment from their example about how to live, how to triumph over adversity, and how to be faithful even to death in the living of our faith and witness. (Hebrews 12:1).

Peace and joy,



David W. Perkins,

Interim Rector