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Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Jesus Calls Us to Love Radically”

November 2, 2025 — *All Saints Sunday*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 6 verses 20-31

The first Sunday of November we celebrate All Saint’s Sunday. We remember those who went before us to the Church Triumphant. The Gospel for this day calls us to a radical love. It starts with a shorter version of the Beatitudes but includes a warning to those who do not live out Jesus’s love. He again states that following him, living in his radical love, will not give you an easy life and will probably make you a few enemies. His call to love requires more. He calls us to love our enemies, do good for those who hate or curse or abuse you. In fact, he calls us to PRAY FOR these people. My first reaction to this idea was, he’s crazy! I’m not going to be anyone’s doormat. I’m going to stand up for myself, hit back harder, hit back faster, teach that person a lesson. But, if you really think about it, Jesus is asking no more than what he did. He did exactly that on the cross. He prayed for those who were killing him, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” He ends this lesson with, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Actually, he is call us to do MORE than we would ever expect another to do for us. The challenge with Jesus is to really live in his radical love for others even at the expense of ourselves. To go beyond societal or even earthly norms to reach the heavenly norms.

November 9 — *Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 20 verses 27-38

Jesus responds to a question from the Sadducees about resurrection and marriage. Jesus emphasizes that in the resurrection, people will not marry but will be like angels, highlighting the transformative nature of eternal life. Our life will no longer be focused on the physical being but on the spiritual life in connection and in the presence of God, Himself. He uses Scripture to reaffirm the reality of resurrection, stating that God is the God of the living, not the dead, thus reinforcing the faith in life after death. This passage emphasizes the reality of the resurrection and eternal life, challenging misconceptions about life after death. Jesus' teachings encourage believers to focus on their relationship with God rather than earthly concerns.

November 16, 2025 — *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 21 verses 5-19

The third Sunday continues with the theme of focusing on our relationship with God. This Gospel lesson is full of all the bad things in life: war, famine, pain, suffering, persecution,

plagues, and natural disasters that we have experienced throughout history and are currently going through. Practically every generation see their own time as these end times, but we seem to endure. Jesus calls us to trust. Not that we will survive, or prosper, or get even, or anything that seems equitable but that our souls will endure. It is the promise of heaven. It is the promise to be with God. It is really the goal of our lives here. It is the fulfillment of our trust in him. It is the greatest gift.

November 23, 2025 — *Christ the King Sunday / Last Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 23 verses 33-43

The fourth Sunday we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. One would think with a title like that, the Gospel lesson would be about Jesus' power and strength and Godhood. Rather, the Gospel brings us back to that first Sunday's lesson in radical love. Jesus is on the cross. He is dying. Is he saving himself, nope. Is he cursing those who are killing him, nope. Is he praying for those who are killing him, yes. Is he continuing in his work of saving people, yes. Is he forgiving people, yes. See, Jesus asks no more of us than what he does himself. He understands humanity in all its frailty, hopes, dreams and endurance because he was human. Our God came and walked the earth as a fully human being to show us the way back to the Father. His life and death were about sharing the radical love God has for us. It was about trust, obedience, prayer, forgiveness, caring, sharing, pain, and suffering; it is divine love.

November 30, 2025 — *First Sunday of Advent*

The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 24 verses 36-44

The last Sunday of November is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new Church Year. This Church Year we will be reading from the Gospel of Matthew. This Sunday, Jesus speaks of the end times and the suddenness of His return. Even Jesus does not know when that will be, only the Father knows. Therefore, Jesus warns us to be busy with building God's kingdom! We must stay awake! We must be ready! Jesus admonishes us to stay vigilant. To be prepared. To be ready. We do not know our own "end time" therefore we must be ready always.

Our month began with remembering those who have joined the Church Triumphant and we are ending with our own readiness to join them and Jesus. We are guided to focus on our relationship with God, rather than being worried about earthly things. The ending of the Church Year with Christ the King is a reminder that Jesus is King of heaven and earth. He triumphs over everything, even death. Advent is not just about remembering that Jesus came as a baby to save humanity and guide us to the Father but also a time of reminder that Jesus will be returning. He is not returning as a baby this time but as the Son of God with all the Saints and the Hosts of Heaven to gather his own to himself. We need to be prepared for that time. We need to live the radical love of Jesus.