

In the Revelation reading we hear these words, *‘After this I looked, and saw a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands, crying out in a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb.’*

That is one glorious image. We might call it the first “iCloud.” For you, if you are like me, not really tech savvy, the iCloud, introduced by Apple, is the ability to save docs and files somewhere other than on your computer or mobile device. You save things virtually “in the air” or “in the cloud” so to speak, and can access those files of pictures, calendars, music, etc. at any time from your device. It’s like placing that part of yourself “in the cloud.”

Revelation frequently mentions the cloud from where the voice of God comes from, and from this cloud will come the appearance of Christ at his return to earth. There is also the great cloud of “witnesses” - i.e. believers.

In that image we include our forebears! We can see their faces through the lens of our memory, cheering for us, praying for us, and joyful beyond compare.

In that spirit we remember those of our community of have died since last All Saints Sunday:

Evelyn Frykman, Karen Krogh, Bruce Lundeen, and Paul Rice.

We still mourn their passing, yet on this wonderfully personal day we welcome *them* among the whole, holy host of heaven who are cheering us on in our day to day!

And speaking of today, there are the saints of today, right here! From Luther’s point of view all the baptized are *simul justus et peccatur*, that is, simultaneously saint and sinner, sinner by our own meandering, and yet saint by God’s redeeming.

In baptism we affirm that we are “marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever.” This gift extraordinaire makes us *makarios* - *blessed!* Blessed to be in the community of God, and blessed to live this life in and under that promise.

So as we think of saints we must remember that they were every-day folk. They were the baptized who kept trying to pay attention to God’s word in J/C, who let

that word be the magnet for the compass in their life, who were prone to get angry at things going haywire, and who were willing to do something about it!

We are a community of plain folk in whom the light of Christ has been set and sealed inside each of us. The gospel read **and** sung today gives us a glimpse of that light of Christ and a way to be:

- be the bearers of the hope in the times of weeping,
- voices of forgiveness, and hands of compassion,
- the heart of peace, and the mind of justice.

That is our task, and we do this wherever we are, at home, at work, in school, in the community, driving our cars, on the phone, as we vote.

Come to the Eucharist. Share in the feast at the table of the Lord and in the joyous company of all the saints!