Sermon Summary: Our Redeemer and Refuge

Scripture: Psalm 34:1–10, 22
All Saints Sunday – November 1, 2026

Sermon Summary

In this All Saints Sunday message, Pastor Jon reminds us that sainthood is not reserved for extraordinary people or a select few. In the United Methodist tradition, everyone who has been claimed by God's grace through Jesus Christ is a saint. We are all forgiven, loved, gifted, and called to serve as disciples of Christ. We don't have to earn God's love or prove our worth. We are already valued and embraced by God's grace.

The sermon also explores the beautiful mystery of the communion of saints—the spiritual connection we share with those who have gone before us, those around us today, and those we may never meet. Our lives and acts of faith are connected in ways we may never fully understand. Every prayer, act of kindness, conversation, and moment of service can plant a seed that contributes to God's larger work of transforming lives. As we remember those who have passed away, we give thanks for their influence and are inspired to continue the legacy of faith and service they began.

Turning to Psalm 34, Pastor Jon explains what it means to fear God. It isn't about being frightened of God, but rather honoring God, trusting Him, and depending on Him. When we humble ourselves and place our trust in God rather than relying entirely on ourselves, we experience His deliverance, healing, freedom, and peace.

Finally, the sermon reminds us that God is our refuge. This refuge isn't a physical place but a spiritual reality. Through Christ, we always have a home where we are safe, loved, and sustained, regardless of our circumstances. As we reflect on life, death, and the people who have shaped our faith, we are reminded that Christ is both our Redeemer and our Refuge. God's goodness invites us to continue the work of sharing His love and transforming the world.

Main Points

1. We Are All Saints, Claimed by God's Grace

- In the United Methodist tradition, everyone who has received God's grace through Jesus Christ is a saint.
- Sainthood isn't about being perfect or extraordinary.
- We don't have to earn God's love or prove our worth to God.

- God has forgiven us, given us gifts, and called us to be disciples.
- We are all valuable members of the body of Christ.

Key takeaway: We are all claimed by grace, and God can use each of us to make a difference.

2. We Are Connected Through the Communion of Saints

- We are spiritually connected to those who have gone before us, those living today, and even people we have never met.
- Our individual acts of faith contribute to God's much larger story.
- Small acts of kindness, service, prayer, and love can plant seeds that may not bear fruit until years later.
- We remember those who have passed away with gratitude for the ways they touched our lives.
- Their examples inspire us to continue saying yes to God.

Key takeaway: Our faith and service are part of something much bigger than ourselves. We carry forward the legacy of those who came before us.

3. Fearing God Means Trusting and Depending on Him

- Biblical fear of God isn't about being afraid or frightened.
- It means honoring God, holding Him in the highest regard, and placing our trust in Him.
- We are called to humble ourselves and recognize our dependence on God rather than relying solely on ourselves.
- When we put our trust in God, He delivers, heals, frees, and makes us whole.

Key takeaway: True life begins when we stop trying to do everything on our own and place our trust in God.

4. Christ Is Our Refuge

- God's refuge isn't a physical building or location.
- It is the spiritual reality of living in Christ and knowing we are always safe in His love.
- No matter what circumstances we face, God is with us.

- Christ is our home, our source of peace, and our place of safety.
- We can turn to God in prayer at any time and in any circumstance.

Key takeaway: We can find security, peace, and purpose in Christ, no matter what life brings.

5. God's Goodness Calls Us to Continue the Story

- Psalm 34 invites us to "taste and see that the Lord is good."
- Even as we face the complicated realities of life and death, we can trust in God's goodness and love.
- We give thanks for the saints who have touched our lives.
- We are called to continue their example through our own acts of love, faith, and service.
- God's saving and healing love continues to transform the world through His people.

Key takeaway: We honor those who came before us by continuing the work of Christ today.