

**The Commemoration of all the faithful Departed**  
**Cycle B**  
**November 2, 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: **Wisdom 3: 1 – 7.**

*God is at peace with the souls of the just.*

**Psalms 23: 1 – 3a, 3b – 4, 5, 6.**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

2nd Reading: **Romans 5: 5 – 11.**

*Christ's blood justifies and restores us.*

Gospel: **John 12: 23 – 28.**

*God is watching over the seeds God plants to insure fruitfulness.*

God is good, **All the time**; All the time, **God is good.**

Death, oh death, where is your sting; oh death, where is your victory? (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 55-57). There I did it, Deacon Pat challenged us on our retreat to begin a homily with this expression. Today we celebrate *Día de los Muertos*, All Souls Day, or more recently “The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed.” What a great way to celebrate our ancestors and friends who have gone before us.

There is an expression in our culture that says there are only 2 sure things: that is right – Death and Taxes. As believing, Baptized, Christians there is only 1 sure thing (No not Taxes) it is that Because of Jesus we will all find salvation and peace in everlasting life. Today we celebrate those folks who have died, like the seed in our Gospel, only to find life, eternal life, it doesn't get any better than that. There is no greater gift that we have been given because of Jesus' victory over death; and through the grace of Baptism, we have been joined to Jesus, his life, death, and resurrection.

While I certainly do not want to downplay the value of the grief process, because when a loved one dies it is a loss experienced by those left behind. A necessary process to move on or continue with our own journeys to God's reign. A process that is necessary during these

pandemic times of isolation. Remember when Lazarus dies, we have the shortest verse in Scripture:” Jesus Wept” (John 11:35). With John’s Gospel today we have a clear reason to add hope to that grief. Death was not part of the original plan. It was a corrective measure to bring about life, life eternal for which we were created.

This follows Paul’s, who by the way really understood this, reading stating if we were baptized into the Christ, then we were also baptized into his death and his resurrection: life everlasting. That is how Paul could say death is gain, life is loss or pain. This is all made possible by the glory of God our Father. This should give us all great hope, as our reading from Wisdom points out “the souls of the just are at peace.” Although our world which does not have the whole picture, sees them as dead. They are at real peace where we all hope to end, in the great heavenly feast.

Each year our commemoration of all Souls is juxtaposed with the Solemnity of All Saints, which reminds us of the fluidity of God’s saving work in Jesus. There are many whom we memorialize today who are saints in God’s eyes; we just don’t have the right lens yet to see it fully. The best is yet to come.

**God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good.**