TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 1, 2026 Matthew 23:1-12

Partners in Service

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this All Saints Day, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith.

Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors.

Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many.

Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned.

Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself.

In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent. As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world. We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUC0109

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NOVEMBER 1, 2026

ALL SAINTS DAY
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Bismarck-Mandan Area UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

November 1, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

All Saints Day

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Video: Jordan VanBerkum
Music: Boram Chern | Liturgist: Mary Beth Rush & Mary Blumhagen

NO MATTER Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

All: We remember

*HYMN For All the Saints NCH 299 v. 1-4

SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:1-3

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship. Sunday School will resume next week.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abba God, Jesus embodied your unconditional love. Forgive us when we fail act with love. Jesus fed those who were hungry. Forgive us for hording resources. Jesus drew near to those living on the margins. Forgive us for isolating ourselves. Jesus brought wholeness to those in need. Forgive us for the hurt we have carried and shared. Jesus hungered and thirsted for righteousness. Forgive us when we become complacent. Guide our lives so that we are recognizable as your children to all those we meet. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY Rachel Patrie

CHOIR ANTHEM Angel Band/Amazing Grace

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:1-12

SERMON Rev. Gretchen Deeg

HYMN Be Still and Know Sing! 111

RITUAL OF REMEMBERANCE

One: In the rings of the bell, we remember those we have lost.
Naming of the deceased.

All: We remember their laughter and smile, their quirks and silly moments.

One: We remember the place they always sat and the things they once said.

All: We remember that old thing they used to wear that carried their smell. We remember burying our heads in it and weeping.

One: We remember with sorrow the words left unspoken, the plans forever shelved.

All: We remember the first holidays and the first seasons without them.

One: Though we can no longer touch, time cannot unravel their mark, their love is forever woven into our lives.

All: They are never far, in the gust of wind, in the birds that keep song, in the star-lit night, in the quiet of prayer, and in the lighting of candles. We remember them.

COMMUNION Let Us Break Bread Together NCH 330

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give thanks for the fruits of the vine and the grains of the earth which sustain us. May this meal we have shared nourish and strengthen us to grow in communion with you and one another. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN God, We Thank You for Our People NCH 376

CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #732302-A.

Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsored in Memory of Our Loved Ones

All Saints Day is sponsored in memory of our loved ones by our congregation. This is an opportunity to Sponsor-a-Sunday at any dollar amount with others from Bismarck UCC. To sponsor put in check memo or note on envelope "All Saints Sponsorship."

Sponsored by the Congregation

November 29 is available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are $500.

Dìa de los Muertos & Taizé Worship – Today

Join us at St. George's Episcopal Church for a light dinner and a Day of the Dead educational program at 5pm, followed by Taize Worship at 6pm as we honor the lives of those who have died. Everyone is welcome and invited to bring photos of deceased loved ones to display during dinner.

Prayer Vigil for Peace – Nov. 2 at 7pm

Ease your tensions and ground yourselves in love at an ecumenical prayer vigil in the sanctuary for peace in this election season. Open to all and is co-hosted with Bismarck UCC, Lord of Life, Legacy UMC, Church of the Cross, Heart River Lutheran, and St. George's Episcopal.

Self-Guided Prayer Space – Nov. 4, 8:30am to 7pm

Following the election, the sanctuary will be open for private prayers on Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 8:30am – 7pm.

Christmas Poinsettias – Orders due Nov. 9

Order poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones by signing up in the narthex or contacting the church office. Poinsettias are used to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Envelopes are available for payment. Please take an envelope for payment place in offering. Orders and payments are due by Sunday, November 9th!

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: November 1 – 8

Sunday:	11 AM Fellowship & Noon Online Fellowship
	11:15 AM Christian Education (on-site & online)
	5 PM Taize Worship (St. George's Episcopal)
Monday:	7 PM Prayer Vigil for Peace in Our Elections
Tuesday:	1 PM Threads of Love: Quilting & Knitting
Wednesday:	8:30 AM – 7PM Open Prayer Space
	6 PM Youth Group
	7 PM Choir Practice
Thursday:	6 PM Book Study "Blood Brothers" (on-site & online)
	7 PM Bismarck Game Club – Mahjong
Friday:	9 AM Bible Study (on-site & online)
	6 PM Faith & Film Movie Night
Sunday:	10 AM Worship
	10:20 AM Sunday School
	11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon Online Fellowship

Advent A'Fair Table Decorating

You are invited to decorate a table in your cultural or ethnic background at Advent A'Fair this year. If you are interested in doing so, please contact Tamara Waters-Wheeler or the church office.

Faith & Film Movie Night – Nov. 6 at 6pm

Join us in the fellowship hall for a screening of "Flowers of the Earth" a 67-min. film about the Indigenous Guarani-Kaiowa people of Brazil, their spiritual connection to the Earth, and their struggle to reclaim and protect their ancestral lands. Popcorn is provided and you may bring your owns snacks, drinks, or some to share.

Puzzle Competition – Nov. 15 at 2pm

Choose your team of up to 4 people and join our puzzle competition on November 15, 2pm-4pm. There will be prizes!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Kingston Adorno, Family of Carol Hoveskeland (Friend of Lonna Augustadt), Louise Zuern, Sharlotte Reddick (Jenna Williams' grandmother), Tove Mandigo, Evan Mandigo, Ivan Sadlier (Autum's uncle), Matthew Nitschke, Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's son), Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

299 For All the Saints

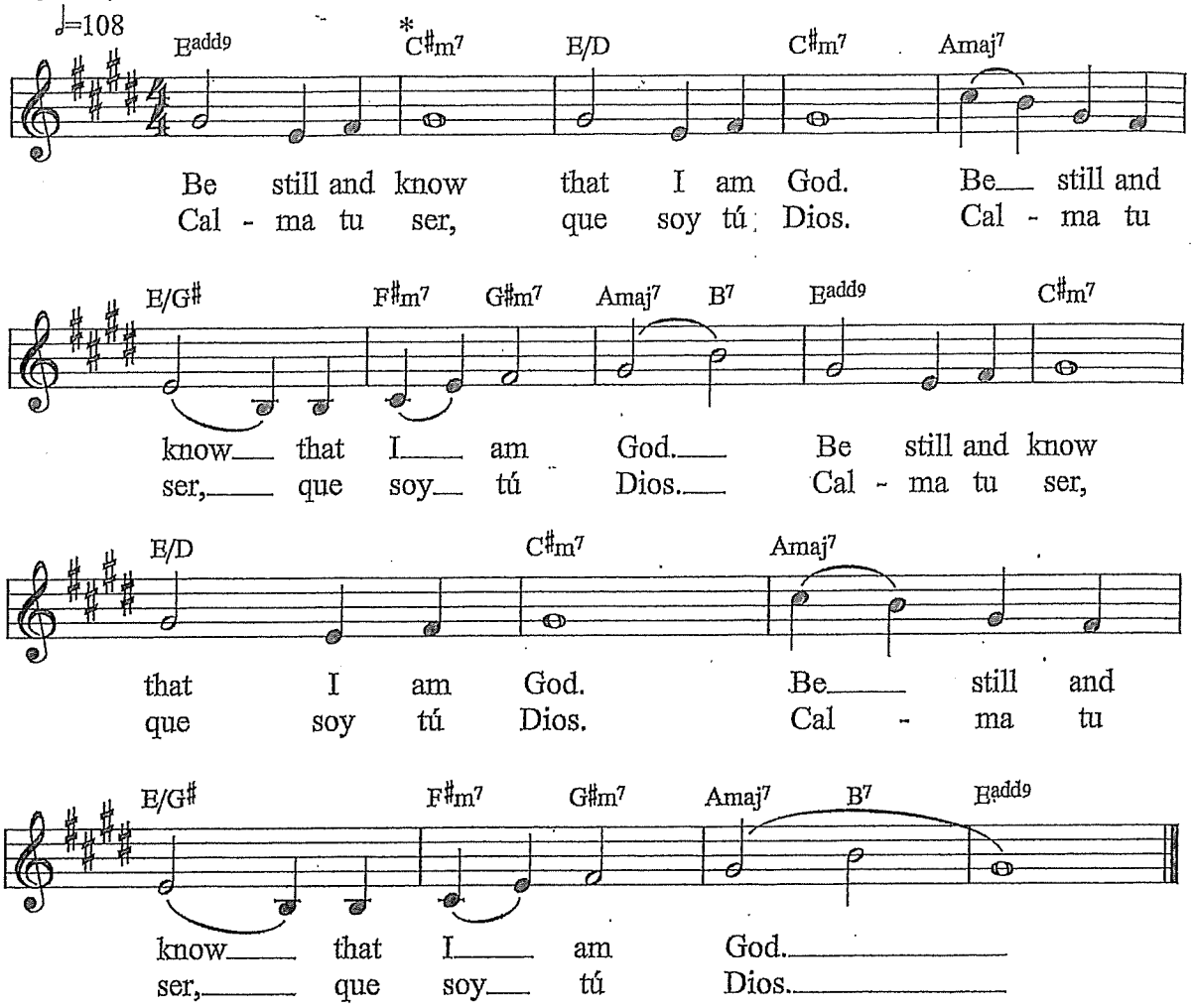
Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal *(1869) and set to a tune by that name,* Sarum. *It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring* Sine Nomine *in*

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Be Still and Know



**May be sung as a round beginning at measure two.*

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Spanish paraphrase: Anthony Cabrera, 2009.

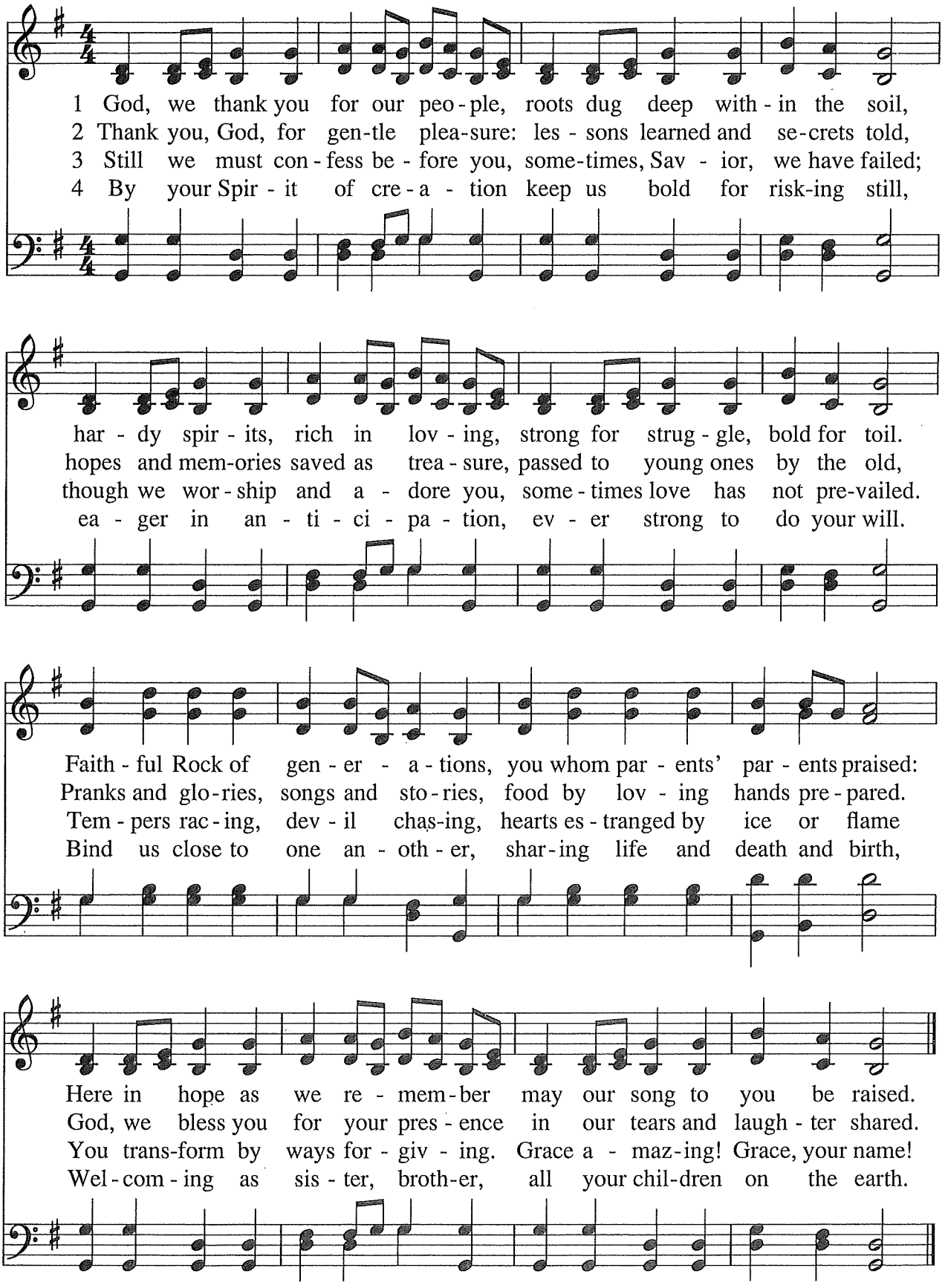
330 Let Us Break Bread Together

Acts 2:42

African-American spiritual

God, We Thank You for Our People 376

Ruth Duck, 1986



Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
William Moore, 1825