

The Rev. Seth Dietrich

November 5, 2023 – All Saints Sunday 9:30 a.m. (All Ages Sermon)

### Saints let the Light Shine Through

Look up in the windows. Do you all know about the windows here. So the bottom windows are all about Jesus, all these stories of him healing people, feeding people, teaching people, stories about his death and resurrection.

And then who are the people up there? These are people who have been trying to follow Jesus' Way of love for the last 2000 years. Just a few of the hundreds of millions of people. These are people who the Church remembers and tells stories about how they followed the Way of Jesus. St. Augustine. St. Ambrose. St. Cecelia. There is no St. Seth. St. Oswald.

See how they are way up high. This is a symbol that all these people are still alive in God. , And see how they are on both sides of us, we are surrounded by them. So even though someone dies and we don't see them anymore, they are with God. Because God's love and God's power are stronger than death.

Now sometimes people think a saint is like a super-hero of goodness. Like a saint is someone who says, I am the very best person at loving others, I pray the most, I do the most for other people. I serve the most.

No, a saint is ANYONE who follows in the Way of love, anyone who is trying to be a little more like Jesus. Do you think you are saints? Yes!

You see how the light shines through them. You know how stained glass works, right? Is the glass bright and glowing? No, the glass is just regular glass with a little color. Sometimes the glass is dirty, sometimes it is cracked, sometimes pieces are even missing. But what happens is that the sun, this giant nuclear furnace of energy that is a million times bigger than the earth, shoots some of its light through the glass, and that's how we see the picture.

And that's how it is with a saint. A saint is someone who lets the light shine through. We are just regular people, some parts are not the cleanest, some pieces are missing Some parts are kinda cracked.

Jesus said, blessed are those who are poor in spirit, running on fumes. Blessed are those who have cracks, they have things they are embarrassed about. But it's OK, because God's light can shine through them. A saint is someone who lets the light shine through.

Who is getting baptized today? So there is this one part in the service where we will all stand for the baptismal covenant and I'll ask you some questions. Do you believe in God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. And then I will ask you some very important questions like: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will with God's help. And this is when we are all saying, God, I know your light will shine through me. I am not alone.