

**Lessons for The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost      November 1, 2026**

Isaiah 26:1-4, 8-9, 12-13, 19-21 - *The faithful departed will wake and shout for joy.*  
Revelation 21:9-11, 22-27; 22:1-5 - *The saints in glory dwell in the heavenly Jerusalem.*  
Matthew 5:1-12 - *The saints of the Lord are already blessed!*

**GATHERING THE TEXTS:** Really and Truly, Saints of God!

We don't see things the way God does! That is clear from the words of Jesus: "Blessed are those who mourn!" We don't see grief as a blessing, but God does, because "they shall be comforted!" We look at others — and even ourselves — and surely don't see saints! But God does, because He sees those who are redeemed by the Lamb and recorded in His book of Life. In that day when the gates of heaven are opened and those who have died in the Lord rise to life, we will shout for joy when we see God's glory! So what is reality, the way we see people, or the way God sees us?

**PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE:** Gracious and eternal God, be with me in suffering and in death to strengthen and comfort me by your Holy Spirit. Keep me in the true faith and give me peace and joy in the assurance of the resurrection of the dead and the glory of life everlasting through Jesus Christ, your Son, my risen Lord. Amen.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** Behind every gift we see the Giver's love, and in our use of His gifts we express the Giver's will.

**OFFERING PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, You told us to seek the kingdom of God first and foremost.  
You promised that all other things will be added to us.  
As we place our offerings on the altar of our love for You,  
We trust Your promise that all our needs will be met. Amen.

**CONVICTION AND COMFORT:**

**Questions to Consider:**

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**Bonus on next page:**