

All Saints Day (observed)
“A quick stop to save a sinner and make a saint!”
Luke 19:5-7
November 2, 2025
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Sunday in which we observe All Saints day is from our Gospel reading, Luke 19:5-7.

“5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

So far the text:

Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem, about a day’s journey from Jericho...about 25 miles. It was a few days before Jesus would enter Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, as we read a few verses later in this chapter 19. The time had come for the Lamb of God to offer Himself on the cross for all the lost of the world...for all the sinners of the world...for you and me. For this reason, Jesus had come into our world – to seek and save the lost!

But before Jesus made the final trek to Jerusalem, He had a quick stop to make. He was going to spend the night at one of Jericho’s resident’s home. Yes, today would be a special day for someone who had no idea about Jesus’ plan.

It was a special “today” for a man of small stature, a man who was easily overlooked in the crowds, but not by Jesus. Jesus with His divine omniscience knew who this man was, knew his name, where he was, but most importantly, that he was a lost sinner. That much the crowd murmured correctly about him.

This day, was a special “today” for a man named Zaccheus. It was his day of salvation...his day of conversion. Zaccheus just wanted to see with his own eyes, the One that performed miracles. For he had most likely heard of the blind man who given

his sight by Jesus as He entered Jericho in Luke chapter 18. And Jesus made another stop upon leaving Jericho to heal another blind man named Bartimeaus, as Mark relates.

But Zaccheus problem wasn't his eyesight, it was his stature. Out of curiosity, he ran ahead of the crowd to get a glimpse of Jesus. He wanted to know what He looked like. So he climbed a tree and waited...inconspicuous to the crowd travelling below.

But not to Jesus. For "today" was going to be a special day for Zacheus, the day he would lose his spiritual blindness and see Jesus for who He was – the Savior of the world! Jesus was going to give Zaccheus sight! Jesus was going to give him the true riches of salvation for his soul!

This small man, detested by the people for his cheating people of their money as a tax collector for Rome, was loved by Jesus. By grace, 100% God's mighty work, Jesus would turn this small man into a giant of the faith. He would turn this sinner into a saint.

How? By the power of Jesus' mighty command!

"Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

That's conversion! Immediately, Zaccheus received Jesus joyfully through faith. It didn't matter what the people thought of him. It didn't matter that they looked down on him and thought badly of Jesus for taking the time to talk to this "sinner".

What mattered was what Jesus thought of him. For Jesus gave Zaccheus a new identity and defined him anew. Jesus said to him:

"Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Zaccheus is a son of Abraham! He's a believer just like Abraham. He's justified by faith, just like Abraham! Salvation has come to this house. Zaccheus didn't seek it. Jesus sought him out and brought salvation to him.

Get out of the tree! It's time to go to your house and bring salvation to your whole household! What an unexpected day of deliverance!

This is what the Reformation is all about that we celebrated last week. Word alone. Grace alone. Faith alone. In Christ alone!

In our Old Testament reading in Isaiah 1, God called out to the people of Israel that they would repent. God wants all people to repent and believe in Him. He is a gracious and forgiving God. Listen again to God's word in Isaiah.

18 “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Zaccheus sins though they were scarlet, were made white as snow through the blood of Jesus His Savior...the world's Savior.

So God wants all people to regard their sins as eternal condemnation, but reason with God, ...receive His good news in Jesus that your sins are forgiven.

Zaccheus didn't reject Jesus or put Him off. When God calls you to repent and believe, now is the time of salvation! So Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6.

“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

To the repentant thief on the cross, Jesus said, **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43**

His “today” of salvation came on his last day of life, before it was too late.

The leper who was healed was made well in body and soul through faith in Jesus. Your faith has made you well.

So, also to the blind men Jesus said, **“Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” 43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God.**

When any sinner receives such great gifts from God of body and soul, one immediately gives glory to God. There is a profound change in one's heart. And this change gives

evidence itself in the showing of the fruits of faith. The thief on the cross witnessed his faith to the other criminal on next to him. The leper came back and thanked Jesus. The blind men glorified God.

So Paul writes to the Corinthians in today's epistle of their growing faith that manifests itself in love to each other.

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other

What did Zaccheus do? How did he show love to others? His changed heart moved him to give his riches to the poor. For he had received the greatest of riches, his salvation. For those he had defrauded, he made sure that they were restored fourfold. So it is with each believer's heart. We give of our riches because God has given us the greatest of riches, our forgiveness. We do it joyfully like Zaccheus and with intent. For with intent, God especially called each of us to faith.

There is a special, “today”, in each Christian's life, yours and mine included, when Jesus sought each of us sinners out, and converted a sinner into saint, by the power of His Word!

Your “today” may have been the day when God sought you out when you were brought into God's house and through water and the Word you were made a saint, washed of all your sins! It was a “must” day for you that Jesus had planned from eternity and in that moment, He called you into His kingdom in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Every day now for the Christian is a day of freedom in Christ! Freedom from sin, death and the devil! Freedom to live at peace with God who has made His home in your heart. Freedom to live with thankful hearts to God in cheerful giving and restoration of those whom we have wronged.

The truth of Jesus word, called Zaccheus down from a tree. The truth made him joyful and free. The truth made him a son of Abraham through faith, not just a descendant. And that same truth, that Reformation truth of the Gospel has made you free son or daughter of Abraham!**“36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”**

Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)