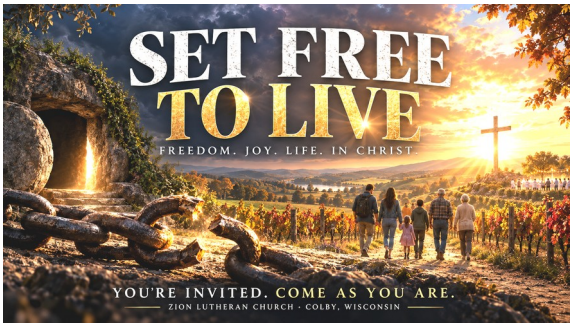
**Sermon for**
**All Saints' Day**

**Date:** November 1, 2026
**Location:** Zion – Colby, WI
Christ – Abbotsford, WI
St. Paul – Green Grove, WI




**First Reading:** Revelation 7:9–17
**Epistle Reading:** 1 John 3:1–3
**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 5:1–12



**Sermon Series:** Set Free to Live
**Sermon Title:** Blessed Are You
**Sermon Text:** Matthew 5:1–12

**Hymns:**
Opening: 677 – For All the Saints (v.1,6)
Sermon: 676 – Behold a Host, Arrayed in White (v.1,3)
Prayer: 677 – For All the Saints (v.8)
Offering: 671 – Sing with All the Saints in Glory (v.1,3)
Closing: 461 – I Know That My Redeemer Lives (v.1,7,8)

**Distribution:**
LSB 680 – Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise
LSB 748 – I'm But a Stranger Here
LSB 672 – Jerusalem the Golden
LSB 673 – Jerusalem, My Happy Home



**Text: Matthew 5:1–12**
Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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Grace, peace, and God's infinite mercy be yours in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Confidence in an Uncertain Season



Election Day in the United States is approaching, and there are people all over encouraging anyone who will listen to vote for them. One of the privileges of living in a free country is that your voice can be heard, and your vote does counts. Millions of Americans will visit polling places to cast their ballots. Who will win?

I've got some good news and bad news. Your guy might win, but sometimes the guy who wins isn't the best one we could have chosen. That's politics, plenty of uncertainty. How do you feel the upcoming election? Are you excited about the outcome? Are you already tired of all the campaign ads? Are you concerned about our nation, about your life, and about the lives of your loved ones? There are many saying this is one of the most important election in the history of the country. (I'm pretty sure they said that last election too. (… and the one before that.)

## God Has Acted for You



I want to let you know about a bigger vote, a much more important one. It was the vote that made all the difference. It was a vote that brought abundant and eternal life for all, and real confidence in the chaos.

The ballot cast was by God. He voted. He elected His only Son to live the life that perfect love demands, to suffer and die on the cross that justice demands, for your sins and your failures. The Bible says:

> "God loved the world this way: He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.[1]"

## The Multitude before the Lamb

God cast the vote that literally changed the world. In Revelation chapter seven the results of this election are made clear.



> I saw a large crowd from every nation, tribe, people, and language. No one was able to count how many people there were. They were standing in front of the throne and the Lamb. [2]

The picture is clear; there is perfect unity, and peace, waiting for us in God's "administration." Real freedom has been won by the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,[3] …and there's still more.

1 John 3:16
2 Revelation 7:9-10
3 John 1:29

The Apostle John goes on to say:

> That is why they are in front of the throne of God. They serve Him day and night in His Temple. The one who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them. They will never be hungry or thirsty again.[4]

## Salvation in the Middle of the Chaos



What a picture! What a promise! Is that just a campaign promise? You might be wondering, what about right here right now? Heaven may be perfect, but this world is stained by sin and sin's affect. Here there is plenty of mess. Can we be truly confident, in the middle of the chaos around us?

Life will let you know even when you think you've elected just the right guy for the job, you soon realize it doesn't solve all the issues in life. Revelation chapter seven teaches us to really know the power of living life to its fullness, we must know the Savior. Verse ten states:

> Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Jesus is not just a leader who balances budgets, and keeps some earthly peace. He conquered our enemies, of sin and death. He overcame eternal corruption, sin, grief, and pain. The One crucified and risen from the dead is the leader of all things in heaven and on earth. He is the One in whom you can put your trust, now, and forever.

When Jesus is your Lord, your worries, your hurts, they're in the right hands. Because of Jesus, they will not prevail. Because of Jesus, this struggle is temporary. Because of Jesus, nothing in this life can separate you from the love of God.[5] So, even when everything seems out of control, there is something more at work. Some-*ONE* more at work!

After His resurrection, Jesus looked into the teeth of all the "hells of this world" and the uncertainties of the future, and proclaimed for all the world to hear:

> All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.[6]

## The Headline of Hope

The devil has his pre-printed headlines for your life, "You Have Failed" or "You Have No More Hope." He will try to trumpet that headline and sell it to anyone who will listen. We know those headlines are fake news. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, those proclamations



4 Revelation 7:15-17
5 Romans 8:38
6 Matthew 28:18

are unreliable and untrustworthy. They are untrue. The real headline about you is found in a better paper, the Word of God.

God's Word about your life in Jesus Christ is the true account of the hope you have. God's vote to send His only Son changed everything. The future looks bright in Him.

## Handing Hope to the Next Generation



In election season people remind us incessantly, that we must "get out the vote" or all is lost. I do think elections are important, and I think everyone should fulfill their civic duty to vote. But if you really want to make a difference in this world, or make a difference in the life of your children, and your children's children, teach them about God's Vote for them.

We've been doing that here for nearly 150 years. Those who went before us fought off the Great Depression for us. Built this building for us from their feeble means. They taught there children and prayed for them, and for us who had not yet been born. They build a sanctuary and a steeple that proclaim the truth. The message of what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

That is the vote that really matters. That is the vote that changes everything. So when the Last Day, Election Day, comes, the only headline that matters will be clear and true for all who trust in Him.

With this hope, and this perspective in mind, our steeple on this church proudly proclaim we are here. We are here to stay. That empty cross at the top is the headline: Jesus is the way.

We've done that for 150 years and we'll do it for another 150 if you remember who elected you. Amen.

