



SINGING SONGS OF OUR PAST

All Saints Day is a Holy Day to remember those who taught us the songs of our faith. They showed us that our hearts beat to the rhythm of God's love. We honor those saints who have gone before.

While we remember the past, we have Jesus calling us forward. Calling us to remember that our suffering is where we ultimately find our blessing. And in Revelation, we are given an inspiring vision of the future that God holds for each of us. A future – not just in heaven – but a future that we are invited to co-create with God as long as we have breath. So today we live in a liminal space – remembering that death is a part of life – and that while we are alive we are called to participate in all of the new things that God is doing in our midst.

We all have songs that have anchored our faith. Whether we grew up singing hymns from the Lutheran Book of Worship, or praise songs en español, or Psalms from the Psalter in the pew at our Catholic church, the songs of our childhood dwell deep within each of us. How have the songs of our past – the songs our parents and grandparents taught us and sang to us – shaped who we are today? We give thanks for those early songs, even as we add new songs to the music of our community and our hearts.

REFLECTION

Focus: Examining our past, family history, and the values that have shaped us.
Understanding how our past influences our present relationship with generosity and faith.

Read: Revelation 21:1-6a | Matthew 5:1-12

- How do the scriptures for this week reflect God's "new song" for all of creation?
- Have you ever experienced a time of renewal and abundance like the scripture from Revelation describes as God's vision for us?
- Who were the early influences in your life regarding generosity? What lessons, intentional or not, did they impart? Did a grandparent's generosity begin a song of philanthropy in your heart, or perhaps a parent's frugality cultivated a sense of caution?
- What pivotal moments have shaped your generosity journey? Did a sudden loss highlight the importance of preparedness? Has a period of abundance inspired gratitude and a desire to give back?
- As you sing the songs of your past, what melodies do you wish to continue to sing? What generosity goals do you aspire to? What values will guide your decisions moving forward?

This week, find quiet moments to embark on a reflective journey through the songs of your past. As you revisit significant events and encounters, consider the melodies and words and rhythms that are within you. How have these experiences – both the joyful and the challenging – contributed to the new song you sing today?

Remember, our relationship with generosity is deeply personal and multifaceted. By approaching our past with compassion and curiosity, we cultivate a deeper understanding of ourselves and our choices. As we draw closer to God, we'll find the strength and wisdom to nurture a flourishing future rooted in faith and generosity.

