

The Communion That Never Ends

REVELATION 7:9-17 • REV. CHERYL FARR • NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Sermon Theme

The saints remind us that death does not get the final word. Christ gathers His people in worship, victory, and eternal hope.

Big Idea

The Church is larger than the people we can see on Sunday morning. In Christ, we belong to a communion that reaches across generations and even beyond death. Our hope rests in the Lamb who saves us, shepherds us, and promises to wipe away every tear.

What the Passage Shows Us

John writes to Christians whose faithfulness could bring rejection and hardship under Roman rule. He sees a multitude beyond counting, gathered from every nation and language before God's throne. They wear white robes and carry palm branches, signs of cleansing and victory. Their worship gives credit for salvation to God and the Lamb, not to human achievement. The Church may appear small or vulnerable in the world, but its future rests securely in Christ.

A Church Fuller Than It Looks

All Saints Sunday brings familiar faces and voices to mind. Some of those we remember taught us to pray or helped build our congregation. Others expressed faith through meals, visits, quiet generosity, and steady love. Grief reminds us how much they mattered. The communion of saints reminds us that those who die in Christ remain in His care. We belong to something larger than any church directory.

Grace, Not Perfection

The multitude's robes have been washed white through the blood of the Lamb. No one stands before God because of a flawless life. Salvation is a gift made possible through Jesus Christ. Wesley taught that God's grace seeks us before we seek Him and invites us to respond in faith. We give thanks for the saints, not because they never failed, but because God was faithful to them.

Suffering Does Not Win

The elder explains that these people have come through great tribulation. Faith did not keep them from every hardship. Some experienced persecution, loss, and death. But their suffering was not the end of their story. Jesus entered death and rose again. We can grieve deeply while trusting that the resurrection gives death no final authority over those who belong to Him.

Living in the Hope of Christ

The Lamb Is Our Shepherd

John calls Jesus both Lamb and Shepherd. The One who gave His life for us is the One who leads us toward living water. He knows suffering from the inside and does not abandon His people. This is the promise of Psalm 23 carried into eternity: the Shepherd who walks with us now will bring His redeemed people into God's presence.

God Will Wipe Away Every Tear

The promise is wonderfully personal. God Himself will remove the tears of His people. This is not a command to stop grieving today. Jesus wept at Lazarus's tomb, and we may trust the resurrection while still missing someone terribly. Christian hope makes room for sorrow and assures us that sorrow will not last forever.

Live the Hope We Proclaim

John's picture of every nation gathered in worship should make us more welcoming today. If God promises an end to hunger, we should care for hungry neighbors. If He promises to wipe away tears, we should sit with those who are grieving. The saints passed their witness to us through ordinary acts of love. Now it is our turn to share Christ's grace with the people around us.

Key Truths

- The Church includes generations of believers united in Jesus Christ.
- Salvation comes through the Lamb, not through human perfection.
- God's grace reaches people from every nation and background.
- Suffering and death cannot overturn Christ's victory.
- The hope of eternity should shape our compassion today.

Questions for Reflection

1. Whose faithful example still shapes the way I follow Jesus?
2. Where do I need to remember that grief and faith can exist together?
3. What does the Lamb becoming our Shepherd tell me about Jesus?
4. How can our congregation reflect the welcome of the great multitude?
5. Whose tears or needs might Christ be calling me to notice this week?

Takeaway

We remember the saints with gratitude, carry their witness forward with love, and trust them to Christ's care. The communion of saints is held together by the risen Savior, not by our ability to hold on to one another. Death does not get the final word. Jesus Christ does, and His word is life.

KEY VERSE *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Revelation 7:17 (NIV)*