

October 31, 2021

## Mystics, Poets, Prophets, and Saints

### Communion of Saints

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

#### First Reading ~ *Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain YHWH will prepare a feast for all people, a banquet of rich foods, a banquet of fine wines, food rich and succulent, and fine aged wines strained clear. On this mountain God will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, the shroud covering all nations, swallowing up death forever. God will wipe away the tears from every cheek, and will take away the disgrace of God's people on earth, wherever they live. YHWH has spoken. On that day it will be said, "This is our God, this is the One for whom we waited, the One for whose liberation we waited. YHWH is the One in whom we had hoped! Let us rejoice and be glad in our deliverance!"

#### Second Reading

~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in *Following The Mystics Through The Narrow Gate, Experiencing the Holy: Feast of All Hallows (Holiness)*

On these "thin days," as the ancient Celts called them, All Saints Day and All Souls Day (Nov. 2), we are invited to be aware of 'deep time', when past, present, and future time all come together as one. On these pivotal days we are reminded that our ancestors are still in us and work with us and through us. Protestants thought it was about "worshiping" saints, but that largely missed the point.

Actually this is a Christian vision of reincarnation, which Christians also called "the communion of saints" in the Apostle's Creed. This was the common and corporate notion of the human person. It realized that our ancestors are indeed in us and with us (as DNA studies can now prove). We were quite foolish to make fun of many Native and Eastern religions, which we often dismissed as "mere ancestor worship", who usually had the more corporate notion of personhood, far removed from the myth of modern individualism. All Saints Day and All Souls Day are celebrations of all of us precisely in our togetherness, which is why the New Testament (in twenty places!) called all 'God lovers' "the saints."