

November 6th, 2011 All Saints Sunday

Introduction to the Day

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship, we will begin the liturgy.

Prayers of the People

Clinging to the promise of abundant life and resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of the generations, God of the saints in every time and place, make your whole church bold to proclaim the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the universe, nourish the land with sun and rain. Fill all who hunger and thirst for your righteousness with good things, that we and your whole creation may be blessed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, of all tribes and peoples and languages, send your Spirit among all your children. Inspire all peacemakers and those who work for justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, tenderly care for those in need of your hope and comfort. Wipe away the tears from their eyes. Give shelter to all who call upon your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love and strength, bless the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and the persecuted. Make us pure of heart, transparent in our love for one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of the living and the dead, accept the praise we bring with all the saints and angels, with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. We remember today all the faithful departed who are with the Lord forever. Bring us, together with them, before your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these our prayers, O God, and give us all we need for this day and the days to come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e.. "The First Reading is from the.... chapter of ..." - then read the text.)

First Reading – *The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.*

Revelation 7:9–17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal ;they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,

and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 34:1–10, 22

I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

**I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.

**I sought the LORD, who answered my
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

**Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

SECOND READING - *A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.*

1 John 3:1–3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **Gospel Reading** – *In the beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.*

Matthew 5:1–12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

"Blessed are you when people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.