

All Saints Sunday
Wednesday, November 3, and Sunday, November 7, 2021

Introduction to the day

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: For All the Saints (R. Vaughan Williams/Held; Organ Solo)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS

Let us remember all the saints before God.

We praise and bless you, O holy Trinity. You have taught your church that it is an ageless communion of saints. We thank you for gathering those who faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised, and now for adding us who celebrate the love of Christ for the redemption of the world. Prepare a place for us among those who are already with you. Help us remember them as an encouragement to saintly living, exciting us to love, in anticipation of an eternal reunion. With them we praise and bless you, O holy Trinity. **Amen.**

Jesus says, Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. And you will find rest for your souls.

We pray for this assembly, for all who have shared their lives and faith among us, for all who have done good works in this congregation. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who teach and those who learn, for those who serve and share the gospel, for those who are still to come, that faithfulness and service may abound, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord. **To you, O Lord.**

O God, remember your church throughout the world. Make all its members grow in love for you and for one another. As you have received our sisters and brothers who have gone to their rest in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life, bring us at last with them into the light of your presence, that in union with all your saints we may give you glory forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Today we especially remember:

Pastor David Craig,
Stephen Goff I,
Gloria Hardy,
Jim Maransky,
Diane Sheppard,
Roger Yekisa,

and those we raise to you in the silence of our hearts.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Like A River Glorious (Havergal/Harlan; Worship Team)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

L All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:

C Alleluia! Alleluia!

L Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
Sing, sister moon and stars of night:

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

L All who for love of God forgive,
All who in pain and sorrow grieve:

C Alleluia! Alleluia!

L Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
Still make your song amid the tears:

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; tr. composite text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: 2021 onelicense.net A-712659.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from Isaiah.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world and those who dwell therein.

² **For the LORD has founded it up-on the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

³ Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD, and who may stand in God's holy place?

⁴ **Those of innocent hands and purity of heart, who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by what is false.**

⁵ They shall receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors, that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ **Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors, that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ **Who is this King of glory? Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a

A reading from Revelation.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ^{6a}Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 11:32-44

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "FOR THE LORD HAS SPOKEN"

HYMN OF THE DAY: Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

Each prayer ends with...

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION MEDITATION SONG: Thine the Amen

1 Thine the amen, thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory, thine the story
Thine the harvest, then the cup
Thine the vineyard, then the cup
Is lifted up, lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise, let there be
Thine the vision, thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing, gone the railing
Gone the pleading, gone the cry
Gone the sighing, gone the dying
What was loss lifted high.

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God.