

All Saints Sunday

November 7, 2021

This day we call to mind those who have lived and died in the Christian faith. More than merely remembering those who have gone on before us, we give thanks to God for their lives and faithful witness. We remember that saints are not people who lived "perfect" lives but the redeemed of the Lord who responded to the Lord's invitation with faith and trust. As the Church Militant, still struggling here on earth, we pledge to continue the struggle and fight the good fight of faith until we join the Church Triumphant – the Church in Heaven.

Welcome!

+ Order of Worship +

Invocation

P Almighty God, before Whose presence the angels veil their faces, with reverence and love we acknowledge Your glory and worship You – Father, **(+)** Son, and Holy Spirit, Eternal Trinity. Blessing and honor and glory and power be unto our God, forever.

C Amen.

P My dear friends in Christ: Today we pause to give thanks to Almighty God for the victory our Lord Jesus Christ won over death and the grave. It is because of that victory that we find comfort in knowing that our loved ones are now celebrating with their Lord in heaven. Here on earth, we look forward to that moment when we shall be united together in one family in Heaven, celebrating the joy of Easter morning. Let us now approach our heavenly Father with a true heart, in full assurance of God's power to heal, forgive, and to save.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P God promised that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins.

C Amen.

P In Holy Baptism we were clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all our sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C We were buried therefore with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his (Romans 6:3-5).

P On this All Saints' Sunday, we remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of the faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise forever. He gave them new life in His Son in Holy Baptism, nourished them in the company of His people at His holy table and in His mercy has summoned them to His presence so that they may continue in joyful service to Him forever. And so we remember and give thanks to God Who has won the victory over death. In our own community of faith we remember:

Patti Walter

Lauren Flanigan

P I shall not die,

C but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD (Psalm 118:17, ESV).

P He [God] will swallow up death forever. The LORD God will wipe tears from every face;

C He will remove his people's disgrace from off the whole earth, for the LORD has spoken (Isaiah 25:8, Common English Bible).

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepare for those Who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading

1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

P Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:25,26a NRSV).

C Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, He [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

P "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1). Surrounded by those who have gone before us, we confess the faith of the Church.

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**

and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P Let us pray to the Lord, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, beseeching Him to have mercy and hear us. (moment of silence)
- P Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and Your peace.
- C Hear us, Lord.**
- P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and the gate of death, we may pass with Him to our joyful resurrection.
- C Hear us, Lord.**
- P Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that Your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.
- C Hear us, Lord.**
- P Grant to all who mourn, a sure confidence in Your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love.
- C Hear us, Lord.**
- P Merciful Father, on this day of remembrance, we remember with thanksgiving our brothers and sisters in Christ who now are enjoying the eternal rest You give to all who die in the faith.

C Alleluia! Alleluia!

P We thank You for their witness and service and pray Your blessings upon their families. Keep us in communion with them and with all the heavenly host until that time when we shall all be gathered into one family in heaven.

C Hear us, Lord.

P Lord God, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, confident that for the sake of Jesus, You hear and answer. Through Christ our Lord, we pray.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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

P Let us pray:

C In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life, we remember before You, O Lord, all those relatives, friends and fellow church members who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for that gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promises. May their memory among us be blessed and may we follow their footsteps of faith to Your eternal presence in the heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Dismissal and Benediction

P As we leave this house of God, do not forget that neither time nor space separates us from our Lord Jesus Christ and from our loved ones in heaven.

P Listen to what St. John recorded: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4).

C Alleluia! Amen!

P The God of peace – Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant – make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight. In the Name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Announcements

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