

All Saints Day Prayer Service

Leader: Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God. (pause)

All: Creator God, we gather to praise you for your many gifts to us. Today we are especially thankful for the men and women who are models to us, examples of service to you and to humanity. By their example and intercession, may we learn to love you with our whole minds, hearts and souls and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Brother. Amen.

First Reading: from *The Liturgical Year* by Adolf Adam

The origins of this feast are to be found in the East, where a memorial of all the martyrs was being celebrated as early as the fourth century. The day for the celebration differed in the various local churches. . . . The festal Mass has taken over the texts of the traditional Mass for the most part, but has been enriched with a second reading and a special preface. . . . Here it is clear that the feast celebrates not only the canonized saints but all the dead who have reached their fulfillment, and therefore surely our dead relatives and friends as well.

Response (adapted from the Litany of the Saints)

Left: Lord, have mercy on us.

Right: Lord, have mercy on us.

Left: Christ, have mercy on us.

Right: Christ, have mercy on us.

Left: Lord, have mercy on us.

Right: Lord, have mercy on us.

Left: Holy Mary, Mother of God.

Right: Pray for us.

Left: Saint Michael,

Right: Pray for us.

Left: Holy angels of God,

Right: Pray for us.

Left: Saint Joseph,

Right: Pray for us.

Left: Saint John the Baptist,

Right: Pray for us.



Second Reading: from St. John Baptist de La Salle's Meditation for the Feast of All Saints, (# 183, point 1)

The happiness of the saints is something so great, so far above human thoughts, that Saint Paul says when he speaks of it, that Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has the heart of man ever conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. It is, he says, the hidden wisdom of God, which he has prepared before all ages for our glory. In fact, this eternal wisdom, which is in itself filled with glory and majesty and constitutes all the glory and happiness of the saints, is hidden from us in this life, and is known to us only through faith. It is rightly only in heaven that we will see God unveiled and entirely revealed. We know, says Saint John, that when Jesus appears we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is.

What a joy for the saints to be made like God through a participation in his nature and his divine perfections! It is there that God is truly in the saints by a holy sharing in his greatness, and there the saints are in God because their entire being is penetrated by God, so that they can think only of him and can love only him.

Response

Right: Saints Peter, Paul and all the holy Apostles and Evangelists,

Left: Pray for us.

Right: Saint Mary Magdalene and all the holy women who followed and ministered to Jesus,

Left: Pray for us.

Right: Saint Stephen and all the holy martyrs,

Left: Pray for us.

Right: Saint Augustine and all the holy Fathers of the Church,

Left: Pray for us.

Right: Saints Benedict, Francis, Dominic, Ignatius and all the holy Founders,

Left: Pray for us.

Right: Saints Scholastica, Claire, Louise de Marillac, Frances Cabrini, Katharine Drexel, Elizabeth Ann Seton and all the holy Foundresses,

Left: Pray for us.

Third Reading: Luke 6:20-31

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of

Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Response

Left: Parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends who now share in the glorious vision of God,

Right: Pray for us.

Left: John XXIII, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oscar Romero, Mohandas Gandhi, Dorothy Day and all holy men and women who have called us to a greater awareness of God and the needs of others,

Right: Pray for us.

Left: All you saints of God,

Right: Pray for us.

Petitions

Leader: Be merciful to us sinners,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Guide and protect Your Holy Church,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring all people together in trust and peace.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Strengthen us in Your service.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(Spontaneous Petitions)

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father . . .



Closing Prayer (based on the Preface for All Saints Day)

All: Almighty Father, today we keep the festival of your holy city,
the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother.
Around your throne the saints, our brothers and sisters,
sing your praise for ever.
Their glory fills us with joy,
and their communion with us in your Church
gives us inspiration and strength
as we hasten on our pilgrimage of faith,
eager to meet them.
With their great company we praise your glory. Amen.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: All you saintly Brothers,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Live, Jesus, in our hearts

All: Forever!