

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY (YEAR A)

COLLECT

Almighty and eternal God, you have kindled the flame of love in the hearts of the saints: grant to us the same faith and power of love, that, as we rejoice in their triumphs, we may be sustained by their example and fellowship; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Rev 7.9–17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

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 worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever 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 centre 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.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

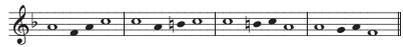
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 34



℣. Let the just rejoice in the Lord. (*All repeat*)



I will bless the Lord | at all times;
his praise shall ever be | on my lips.
I will glory | in the Lord;
let the humble hear | and rejoice. ℣.

Proclaim with me the greatness | of the Lord;
let us exalt his | name together.
I sought the Lord | and he answered me
and delivered me from | all my fear. ℣.

Look upon him | and be radiant;
let not your faces | be ashamed.
I called in my affliction; | the Lord heard me
and saved me from all | my distress. ℣.

The angel of the Lord encompasses | those
who fear him,
and he | will deliver them.
Taste and see that the | Lord is good;
happy are they who | trust in him! ℣.

Fear the Lord, you that | are his saints,
for those who fear | him lack nothing.
Strong lions suffer want | and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord | lack no
blessing. ℣.

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3.1–3

A reading from the first letter of John.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Pet 2.9

Alleluia.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people: called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Mt 5.1-12

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers: come and save your people by the mystery of your body and blood, and bring us with your saints to your eternal glory; who are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints, pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May he give you joy in their fellowship and a share in their praises. **Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness and to come to the full radiance of glory. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...