**READINGS for ALL SAINTS DAY**

**Revelation Chapter 7 verses 9~17**

**9**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. **10**They cried out in a loud voice, saying*, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!*’

**11**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, **12**singing, *‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’*

**13**Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, *‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’***14**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.* **15**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. **16**They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; **17**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.’

**1 John Chapter 3 verses 1~3**

**1**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.

**2**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. **3**And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**Ephesians Chapter 6 verses 10~18**

**10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. **11**Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12**For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13**Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14**Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. **15**As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. **16**With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17**Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**18**Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

**WORSHIP for ALL SAINTS DAY**

God of all people from every tribe and language;.

You call true witnesses who sing your praise, live your grace and work for peace.

May we share their faith and know our need for you

That we might bring blessing to the hunger of your world

Through Jesus Christ, whose body we are. Amen

**HYMN:** For all the Saints, who from their labours **rest https://youtu.be/j\_UvXe-of-s**

**READINGS** from REVELATION and 1 JOHN *then* **TIME of CONFESSION**

Lord, you call us to share Your holiness; we think we are not worthy.

 Lord, forgive us and give us Your peace.

 You show Yourself in the strangeness of the saints; we demand safe normality.

 Christ, forgive us and give us Your peace.

 You surround us with many witnesses; we simply hear what we want to hear.

 Lord, forgive us and give us Your peace.

**Pause for Thought**

Which Saints have impressed you most? What is it about their characters or deeds that impressed you? \*\*\* The biblical Saints were not plaster idols. Like you and me they had weaknesses, oddities and blind spots. Their strength was in trusting and following Jesus.

**Collect for ALL SAINTS**

 God of holiness, Your glory is proclaimed in every age;

 As we rejoice in the faith or Your Saints,

inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy,

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(Additional Collect, Common Worship)*

**READING:** *from*St Paul’s letter to the Ephesians Chapter 6

**Pause for Thought**

We share the same calling as the Saints, to be faithful to Christ, to shine as His Light in the world and to work as Salt to preserve good and counter evil. Like them we do not embrace this battle alone. Read the passage from Ephesians through slowly, considering some of the resources we are offered. The Saints’ armour was not always well oiled or super shiny. What do you think is the state of your armour? Go slowly again through verses 13 to 17 and consider each piece of equipment, how it could benefit you in the battle for the light. Are you going into the battle naked or with gaping holes leaving you vulnerable? Dressing is a daily event and it is up to us to claim the covering we are offered and keep it shiny!

**HYMN:**  Fight the good fight **https://youtu.be/Bgl4SoI-5sk**

Lord, we offer you now the strength, the time and resources that you have give to us.

Take us Lord, help us to claim your armour, bless us and use us for your glory. Amen

**ALL SOULS ~ MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER**

**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**

**WORSHIP and READINGS**

*You may like to have a table with a large candle as a focal point and several tea lights representing those who you would particularly like to hold before God today.*

Before and after time, **there is God.**

Where past, present and future gather, **there is God.**

Beyond the death of the body, **there is God.**

For You, O Lord, are everlasting

**Faithful for ever and eternally present.**

You are the great “I AM”

**And we rest and trust in and worship You.**

**COLLECT**

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,
grant us, with all the faithful departed,
the sure benefits of your Son’s saving passion and glorious resurrection
that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;
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.

**READING from WISDOM Chapter 3 Verses 1-9**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them.
**2**In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,

and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
**3**and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.
**4**For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality.
**5**Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,

because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
**6**like gold in the furnace he tried them,

and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.
**7**In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,

and will run like sparks through the stubble.
**8**They will govern nations and rule over peoples,

and the Lord will reign over them for ever.
**9**Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love,

because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

**SONG:** Be still, for the presence of the Lord **https://youtu.be/ZugvUQ4m90U**

**GOSPEL READING from John Chapter 6 Verses 37-40**

**37**Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,

and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away;

**38**for I have come down from heaven,

not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

**39**And this is the will of him who sent me,

that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,

but raise it up on the last day.

**40**This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him

may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

**PRAYERS**

*During the prayers you may like to take time to remember*

*each of the people you remember and value who are now with the Lord.*

Lord, you are the One who lives for ever and we come before you in prayer.

We remember with gratitude those we have loved

who have now passed through death into eternity

*Silence as we remember each one, lighting a candle for each.*

You are the resurrection and you are Life, help me to trust in You.

We remember those who are approaching death in these troubled times

And we commit them to Your everlasting love and mercy.

You are the resurrection and you are Life, help me to trust in You.

We remember those who are fearful of dying

And those who are fearful of embracing Life.

You are the resurrection and you are Life, help me to trust in You.

We remember the whole company of believers who have ever and will ever live.

With them we praise and glorify You Lord,

The One who is alive and reigns for ever as our King,

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitations of your glory and dominion, world without end.

*Eric Milner-White (1963) after John Donne (1631)*

**HYMN:** The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended **https://youtu.be/FTeGSG50JBE**