



All Saints' Day

Sunday 1 November 2020

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>
- **Image: The saints** Tapestry by John Nava

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 For all the saints

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

And the second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for All Saints'

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Revelation of Saint John the Divine

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.' *Revelation 7:9-17*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the First Letter of Saint 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. *1 John 3:1-3*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 [O when the saints go marching in](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying,

'Blessèd are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessèd are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessèd are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessèd are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessèd are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessèd are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessèd are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessèd are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessèd are you when people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.' *Matthew 5:1-12*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

A small child was shown around a church for the first time. He fascinated by the stained-glass windows. 'Who are they?' he gasped, pointing to the figures in the glass.

'They are the saints,' replied his mother.

That evening, the child went home and told his father of his church visit. 'What did you see?' asked the father. 'I saw saints!' replied the child. 'Oh yes?', asked his father ... and who *are* the saints?' Without a paus, the child replied, 'they are the people who the light shines through'. It's a good definition and explains why the saints are shown in a stained-glass window with a halo.

In the New Testament, the word 'saint' always translates the words 'sanctified' or 'holy', both of which mean people in whom the Holy Spirit of God lives. Both words imply a person who is walking in the way of Jesus.

We often think of the saints as being dead so now lives in Heaven But when we look, for example, at the beginning of St Paul's letters, we find him using the word 'saint' to describe the *present* members of the churches. Ephesians 1:1 says, 'To the saints in Ephesus!' There'd be no point in writing to dead members of a church!

The beatitudes in today's Gospel reading tell us how to become such saints, living people through whom the light shines.

The list starts by describing the beginning of the process. It says, 'Blessed are the

poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God.' The word 'blessed' implies that God is working in and through someone. They are the instrument by which God's blessing is transmitted. The phrase 'blessed are the poor in spirit' therefore means something more like, 'you are allowing God to work in you if you are poor in spirit.'

Our quest to become a saint and our eternal future both rely on poverty of spirit. How? Imagine we hold a bottle and fill it with something, anything. The bottle cannot accommodate anything else if it's already full; we can add something to the bottle if it's slightly empty; we can half fill the bottle if it's half empty; and so on.

We then translate the metaphor to ourselves. A human soul is usually filled with thoughts of self and desires to glorify itself, so it is not poor in spirit—quite the reverse. To let the Holy Spirit of God enter our soul we must remove these desires and decrease the extent to which we obey our own spirit. We learn to become poor in spirit as we give up the right to be our own person in order to let God take over.

We increasingly inherit the Kingdom of God as He takes over, and a saint is born.

The beatitudes continue and tell us the sequence of events as a Christian grows into sainthood and confirms their place in heaven.

Once we start the process giving up of self that Jesus calls 'poverty of spirit,' we start to mourn—not over people we once knew but over ourselves, because we recognise our past sins, in response to the people we were and to some extent still are: in a word, we *repent*. As it turn around and re-orient our soul toward God, and the promise is that God will comfort us. How? because the Holy Spirit will enter us in greater power (and remember that Jesus called him 'the comforter'). We become aware of who we are and become meek—the humility to see who we are, looking beneath the surface and facing up to what we were and striving to become new.

Such meekness lets us see things *God's* way to the extent we inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. (This awkward phrase simply means we see Heaven for what it is and thence reap its fruit.) As the Spirit dwell in us more strongly, His spiritual power impels us to bring Godliness to others: we hunger and thirst after righteousness. We become more like the Jesus whose trademark prayer needs to start, 'Your Kingdom come, here on earth as it is in Heaven.'

We grow to become merciful because God is.

The beatitudes describe the build-up of the Spirit in our lives with the phrase 'blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God'. Note that we don't see Him literally—with physical eyes. Rather, we start to see the world the way it should be and see the correct way to live if this world is to be in every sense God's world.

Does God shine through us? Do we make God real when people come into our presence? Are we the sort of people that folks come to if they want to know something of God? Does light shine through us—the light of Christ? Are we willing to be

poor in spirit to kick-off this vast, amazing journey of faith? The saints are the people through whom the light shines. And we are all called to be those saints.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom,
let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord,
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Bless our bishop and all ministers of your Church,
that by faithful proclamation of your word
we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit,
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ
from glory to glory.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Give to the world and its peoples
the peace that comes from above,
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the
service of the poor and needy;
all who minister to the sick and dying;
and all who bring light to those in darkness.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin
or disfigured by pain,
that, raised from death to life in Christ,
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us
who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity;
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,
guide us to your kingdom
and grant us your peace at all times.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Hasten the day when many will come
from east and west, from north and south,
and sit at table in your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory,
with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;
by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

**All Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour and power,
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before him
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you. Alleluia!

HYMN 3 Brother, sister, let me serve you ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

May God,
who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.
May he give you joy in their fellowship
and a share in their praises.
May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory.
And the blessing of God the Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 All I once held dear ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost,
restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore, with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.