

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all
the Saints,
at whose festival the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration
the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you
for which we earnestly long.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Apoc 7:2-4,9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
I, John, saw another angel rising where the
sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God;
he called in a powerful voice to the four angels
whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait
before you do any damage on land or at sea or
to the trees, until we have put the seal on the
foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I
heard how many were sealed: a hundred and
forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to
count, of people from every nation, race, tribe
and language; they were standing in front of
the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in
white robes and holding palms in their hands.
They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who
sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all
the angels who were standing in a circle round
the throne, surrounding the elders and the
four animals, prostrated themselves before
the throne, and touched the ground with
their foreheads, worshipping God with these
words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour and power and
strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'
One of the elders then spoke, and asked me,
'Do you know who these people are, dressed in
white robes, and where they have come from?'
I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then
he said, 'These are the people who have been
through the great persecution, and they have

washed their robes white again in the blood of
the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 23:1-6

Response:

Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished
on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of
God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet
been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as
Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come to me, all you who labour and are
overburdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.
There he sat down and was joined by his
disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what
he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is
right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause
of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and

persecute you and speak
all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.'
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings we bring in honour of all the
Saints
be pleasing to you, O Lord,
and grant that, just as we believe the Saints
to be already assured of immortality,
so we may experience their concern for our
salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall
see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the
sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy
and wonderful in all your Saints,
we implore your grace,
so that, coming to perfect holiness in the
fullness of your love,
we may pass from this pilgrim table
to the banquet of our heavenly homeland.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Message

ALL SAINTS SOLEMNITY

THE WORD

Year A • 1 November 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 3



SAINT NEXT DOOR MT 5:1-12

When we think of saints, we usually think of clergy and religious who have been officially canonised by the church. Their lives were carefully scrutinised, their writings and actions thoroughly investigated, to ensure their heroic virtues.

The title of saint or blessed is accorded only to those outstanding in sanctity - mystics, martyrs, missionaries, pastors and founders of religious orders. It seems out of reach of the rest of us.

But in his letter on holiness, Gaudete et Exsultate, Pope Francis challenged this way of thinking. "To be holy," he said, "does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious." We do not have to be "swooning in mystic rapture" or walking around with "lowered eyes" to be a saint. Sanctity isn't just for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. We are all "called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves."

The Holy Father emphasised that the call to holiness comes with our baptism and that "in the church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness."

Therefore, when we think of holiness, we should not "think only of those already beatified and canonised." Nor should we grow discouraged by examples of holiness that appear unattainable. "The important thing," he said, "is that each believer discerns his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts, rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness."

Today's feast honours the multitude of ordinary saints, those described by Pope Francis as "the saints next door" who will never be formally canonised. All of us are called to be saints. ■

REFLECT

In Gaudete et Exsultate, Pope Francis described the beatitudes of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel as the key to sainthood. The beatitudes are "the Christian's identity card." Our identity card. Nowadays, our purses and wallets are full of cards - driving licences, social security cards, bank cards, travel passes, club cards of various kinds. We carry lots of cards, but the most important one is not in our purse or wallet. It is in our hearts, shown in our actions, showcased in our daily living.

Writes Pope Francis: "Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the beatitudes," which are "the Christian's identity card." "If anyone asks: what must one do to be a good Christian?" then "the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount."

We gain true happiness by aligning our wills with the will of God, as expressed in the beatitudes. In living like this, we become saints.

Not only are we called to be holy, he continues, we are also surrounded by people who are holy. "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile...Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence."

I try to think of the beatitudes as my identity card. When people see me, encounter me, do they see a saint? Am I carrying a Christian identity card? ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to witness to you by living your way. Help me to become the saint next door. Amen."



LEARN

Saints surround us. Think of the good people you have known, exemplars of love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, and Godliness. Perhaps your parents, a family member, a neighbour, a teacher, a friend, or a work colleague.

A saint makes time for another even when time is short.

A saint sees those on the margins, those with empty stomachs, those without a home.

A saint treats everybody the same, no matter who they are or where they come from.

A saint is honest and just in all her dealings and relationships.

A saint never discriminates based on gender, skin colour, sexuality, or postcode.

A saint is slow to judge, rich in mercy.

A saint fosters reconciliation, seeks to forgive and be forgiven.

A saint comforts, soothes, and stands in solidarity with those who suffer.

A saint speaks good news.

A saint trusts in God at all times.

A saint knows that love is always the answer.

To be a saint is to "bear witness" to God in all that we do. It is to live the Sermon on the Mount.

PRAY

Remember your deceased loved ones today. Pray that they may be counted among the communion of saints.

DO

Visit the grave(s) of your beloved dead this week. Ask the Lord to take them to himself.