Liturgy

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday, Year A
(November 1, 2026)

Gathering

Listen, people of God:
Our God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love
with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ, and raised us up with Him,
and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. – from Ephesians 2:4-6

I looked, and behold, there was a great multitude that no one could number,
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb,
clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.
They were crying out in a loud voice, saying,
Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!
And all the angels were standing around the throne
and around the elders and the four living creatures;
and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying,
Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!
Amen. – Revelation 7:9-12

Today, we join our voices with all the saints and angels
and the whole of creation.
Come, let us worship the Lord, our God!

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height.
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail.
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high, His power proclaim.
Heaven and earth and all creation,
Laud and magnify His Name.

LECTIONARY for the twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Year A (All Saints Lectionary):

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

All Saints is one of the "special days," such as Trinity Sunday or Holy Cross, that are interspersed throughout this long season after the Day of Pentecost. These special days are occasions for the Church to focus on and celebrate a particular doctrine, mission, or ethic, and to highlight its integral place within the whole story of God.

When we think of the term saint, the first image that presents itself is often a very formal one: someone whose life exemplified power and holiness, often one who was martyred for the faith, or who was elevated to the title of Saint Such-and-Such after death. Or we might think in much more earthly terms, along the lines of saying someone is "such a saint!" for having done something unusually generous and unselfish. But when we find saints mentioned in the Bible—and we find this often—it is always with the understanding that these "holy ones" are those whose lives are set apart for relationship with God and dedicated wholly to His purposes. In this biblical understanding, saints—both those who have gone before and those still living—are examples of faithful and triumphant believers, whose lives are a model of faithfully walking through life on this earth with eyes fixed on Jesus. Their lives and their stories challenge us to respond to the same high calling in our own lives.

All Saints Day is November 1. In many Western Christian traditions it is observed on the first Sunday in November, even if the 1st doesn't happen to fall on Sunday. It's an occasion to contemplate the "great cloud of witnesses" that surrounds us (Heb. 12:1). It's a day that reminds us that we are joined with the Church universal across time and across the globe, all part of God's Story. And it's a time to remember and thankfully honor all the saints, the "faithful witnesses," God has placed in our lives, who have

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;
We would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee,
So on earth Thy will be done.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2012. Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Text: Thomas Coram (vs. 1 and 2); Edward Osler (vs. 3).
Hymn tune: HOLY MANNA (William Moore, *The Columbian Harmony*, 1825)

Inspired us, influenced us, taught us, and formed us.

Music for Ellen's setting of Praise the Lord! Ye Heav'ns, Adore Him *is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet. The tune is the familiar* HOLY MANNA, *perhaps better known with the lyrics "Brethren, we have met to worship …" This setting is a joyous expression of praise as "the faithful exult in glory" (Psalm 149).*

Here's the link:
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-ye-heavns-adore-him

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

Sung:

All the saints in heaven adore Thee, we would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1864. Hymn tune: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughn Williams

We sing three verses of this classic, triumphant hymn here at Invocation. The final verse is reprised, below, as the hymn of Sending.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in the words of this hymn of the ancient church:

You are God; we praise You.
You are the Lord; we acclaim You.
You are the Eternal Father; all creation worships You.
To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praises you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praises you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praises you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims You;
Father of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

I have crafted this antiphonal Profession of Faith from the ancient hymn, Te Deum laudamus, *attributed to the fourth-century church fathers Ambrose and Augustine. With its acclamation of praise from all creation to the triune God, it is particularly fitting for All Saints Sunday.*

This spoken Profession of Faith also leads, both powerfully and lovingly, into a time of confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.
When You became man to set us free
You did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Leader:
Come then, Lord, and help Your people,
bought with the price of Your own blood,
and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus* ("Thee, O God, we praise"), 4th century.
Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.

Prayers of Confession

See what great love the Father has given to us,
that we should be called the children of God;
and that is what we are.
Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed.
What we know is this:
when He is appears, 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. – from 1 John 3:1-3

Most merciful God,
We confess to You and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned against You
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

[Silence]

Have mercy on us. **Accept our repentance,**
and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation,
that we may show forth Your glory in the world;
through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

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This setting of Agnus Dei *is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also included in the collection,* Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. *You may hear* Agnus Dei *in the Audio Media Studio.*

Here are the links:
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/agnus-dei-clip

Assurance of Pardon

These are true words of promise:

The Lord is righteous in all His ways,
and faithful in all He does.
The Lord is near to all who call on Him,
to all who call on Him in truth.
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He will hear their cry and save them.
The Lord keeps all who love Him.
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

– Psalm 145:17-21

Passing of the Peace

Time of Offering

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Glory Be To God

To You we bring our hymn of praise: Glory be to God.
Hearts and hands together raised: Glory be to God.
Who spoke before the dawn of time: Glory be to God.
Veil of darkness torn by light: Glory be to God.

And with unceasing voice all heaven sings: "Glory be to God!"
Th'anthem of the Lord's redeemed: "Glory be to God!"

You purchased captives for Your saints: Glory be to God.
And opened wide the kingdom gates: Glory be to God.
You overcame the sting of death: Glory be to God.
And clothed us in Christ's righteousness: Glory be to God.

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim: "Glory be to God!"
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain: "Glory be to God!"

Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever. (repeat)

Father, Spirit, risen Son: Glory be to God.
Who was, and is, and is to come: Glory be to God.
And with unceasing voice all heaven sings: "Glory be to God!"
Th'anthem of the Lord's redeemed: "Glory be to God!"

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim: "Glory be to God!"
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain: "Glory be to God!"

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Matt Maher, Kelly Minter, Stuart Townend.

The Word

Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12

The Table

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

*The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

We Behold You (Fraction Anthem)

With all of the saints and angels,
We gather before You.
Our hearts filled with thankfulness,
We lift up Your holy Name.
With all who have gone before us,
We feast at Your table.
We eat of Your body and
Drink of Your holy blood.

And we behold You, and we behold You
Lamb of God, slain for our sins.
(Repeat)

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Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat.

Chorus
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my everything, and I will adore You.

Eric Wyse's setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, *is available at Score Exchange (http://www.scoreexchange.com/scores/19379.html)*

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power
Be to You, the only wise King.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,
At the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,
Such a marv'lous mystery.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

For All the Saints (reprise)

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Public Domain. Text: William W. How, 1864. Hymn tune: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughn Williams.

We sing the final verse of this triumphant hymn as a wonderful, declarative way to send forth God's people, with a doxology of praise and hope, into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Benediction:

And now, beloved in the Lord,
we go forth into the world to love and serve Him.
May He continually enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that at all times we may know what is the hope of His calling,
what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe –
that we may live for the praise of His glory,
both now and in the ages to come.
Amen! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

– based on Ephesians 1:18-21

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

"The church, although scattered throughout the whole world, yet, as if occupying one house, having received . . . this faith in Jesus, carefully preserves it. She believes these points of doctrine just as if she had one soul and one heart, and she proclaims them, teaches them, and hands them down with perfect harmony as if she possessed only one mouth. For although the languages of the world differ, the significance of the faith is one and the same. For the churches which have been planted in Germany do not believe or hand down anything different, nor do those in Spain, nor those in France, nor those in the East, nor those in Egypt, nor those in Libya, nor those which have been established in the central regions of the world. But like the sun, that creature of God, which is one and the same throughout the whole world, so also the preaching of the truth shines everywhere and enlightens all who are willing to come to a knowledge of the truth. Neither will any of the leaders in the churches, however highly gifted they may be in eloquence, teach doctrines different from these (for no one is greater than the Master). Nor, on the other hand, will one who lacks power of expression inflict injury on the tradition. For the faith is always one and the same. One who is able to speak about it at great length does not add to it; neither does one who can only say a little diminish it." – Irenaeus

Lectionary for next week: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;;
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20; Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

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