



We are drawing to the close of the longest uninterrupted season of the church year--the "ordinary time" which follows Eastertide and Pentecost. The season also brings us to the end of one church year and the beginning of another. In many ways, the church year is structured as a journey through the stories of our faith. It seems very appropriate that as this journey through the year comes to a close, we should stop to remember those saints whose journey through life on earth has come to a close as well. And just as a new year will begin with Advent, the saints remembered today have entered a new beginning in the Spirit.

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

**The First Reading** - Wisdom 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9

**The Psalm** - Psalm 24

**The Second Reading** - Revelation 21: 1-6a

**The Gospel Reading** - John 11: 32-44

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB\\_RCL/HolyDays/AllSaints\\_B\\_RCL.html](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/HolyDays/AllSaints_B_RCL.html)

### **COLLECTS OF THE DAY**

#### **Collect One**

O almighty God,  
who hast knit together thine elect  
in one communion and fellowship,  
in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord;  
Grant us so to follow thy blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living,  
that we may come to those unspeakable joys,  
which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

and/or

O almighty God,  
who hast knit together thine elect  
in one communion and fellowship,  
in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord;  
Grant us so to follow thy blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living,  
that we may come to those unspeakable joys,  
which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Collect Two

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 our Lord.

and/or

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 our Lord.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Presider or deacon*

As we recall the blessed ones who have gone before us, let us offer prayers to  
God who adorns the poor with victory.

*Deacon or other leader*

With the angels and archangels and the spirits of the blessed.

**Lord, have mercy.**

With Mary, mother of Jesus and bearer of God.

**Lord, have mercy.**

With the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs.

**Lord, have mercy.**

With all the saints, witnesses to the gospel.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For *N* our bishop and *N* our presbyter, for this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the thirsty, the poor and the meek, and all who are persecuted.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the dead and those who mourn.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our city/town/village/parish... and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all those we love.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our ancestors and all who have gone before us in faith.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

*Presider*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for the triumph of Christ in the lives of your saints. Receive the prayers we offer this day and help us to run our course with faith, that we may swiftly come to your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **POST 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.

and/or

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.

## PRAYERS

God of unfailing light,  
in your realm of glory  
the poor are blessed,  
the hungry filled,  
and every tear is wiped away.  
Strengthened by this vision,  
may we follow in the way of holiness  
that your Son made known in life and death. Amen.

All blessing, honour, and glory,  
all wisdom, praise, and thanks be yours,  
O God of our salvation!  
We pray in communion with all the saints on earth and heaven,  
with the martyrs and the faithful in all ages,  
and in the name of the Lamb who was slain,  
who alone is worthy of worship.

Source of all being, beginning and end,  
we praise you for those who have served you faithfully.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ,  
replenish our hope in your eternal kingdom,  
that we may have life in all its fullness,  
unfettered by the fear of death. Amen.

*Concluding with:*

Bless us with your healing presence;  
make us hungry for justice;  
strengthen our faith;  
and increase our love for others,  
especially those we find it most difficult to love. Amen.

## RESPONSIVE BIBLE READING

### The Old Testament

**Reader:** As for the *saints* in the land, they are excellent in God's sight. God's greatest pleasure is to be with them. Psalm 16:3

**Congregation:** Sing praises to the Lord, O you his *saints*, and give thanks to his holy name. Psalm 30:4

**R:** Love the Lord, all you his *saints*! Psalm 31:23

**C:** Fear the Lord, you his *saints*, for those who fear him have all they need. Psalm 34:9

## All Saints YEAR B November 1, 2015

**R:** Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to his people, to his *saints*, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Psalm 85:8

**C:** Let the *saints* shout for joy. Psalm 132:9

**R:** All of creation will give thanks to the Lord, and all of you *saints* will bless God. Psalm 145:10

### The New Testament

**R:** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the *saints* who are also faithful in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 1:1

**C:** I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the *saints*. Ephesians 1:15

**R:** Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, it is my prayer that you may know what is the hope to which Christ has called you, ... that you may know what are the riches of his glorious inheritance for the *saints*. Ephesians 1:18

**C:** I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the *saints* what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of God. Ephesians 3:17b-18

**R:** And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the *saints* for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

### ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

Why do we honour all of the saints - Canon Ann M Smith  
<http://onlinesermons.blogspot.co.uk/2009/10/all-saints-year-b.html>

["Being Saints of God,"](http://day1.org/1549-being_saints_of_god) the Right Rev. Keith Whitmore, *Day 1*  
[http://day1.org/1549-being\\_saints\\_of\\_god](http://day1.org/1549-being_saints_of_god)

["Taking Time to Look,"](http://day1.org/1015-taking_time_to_look) the Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers, *Day 1*  
[http://day1.org/1015-taking\\_time\\_to\\_look](http://day1.org/1015-taking_time_to_look)

Peter, Paul and personal saints - Kir Shalom  
<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/a-allse.php>

A Lutheran insight -  
<http://www.stpaulwallis.org/2012/11/06/sermon-for-all-saints-day-sunday-november-4/>

Saints as signposts by David Hope, Archbishop of York  
<http://anglicansonline.org/archive/news/articles/1998/981113b.htm>

## CHILDREN

[Worshiping with Children](http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10/year-b-all-saints-day-thursday-november.html), All Saints B, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown  
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10/year-b-all-saints-day-thursday-november.html>

["On and On and On and On,"](https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2012/10/21/on/) Frances Woodruff, *On the Chancel Steps*  
<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2012/10/21/on/>

["For All the Saints,"](http://childrenssermonstoday.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/sunday-november-4-2012.html) Dianne Deming, Childrens Sermons Today  
<http://childrenssermonstoday.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/sunday-november-4-2012.html>

[Children's Sermon](http://faithformationjourneys.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10/childrens-sermon-all-saints-sunday-2012.html), *Faith Formation Journeys*  
<http://faithformationjourneys.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10/childrens-sermon-all-saints-sunday-2012.html>

## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

For All The Saints  
Spirit of The Living God  
Faith of Our Fathers  
O Holy City, Seen of John  
[Beneath the Cross of Jesus](#)

## A Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die  
*John Chapter 11 Verse 25*

### Welcome

#### Verse from Scripture

Jesus said, Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest *Matthew Chapter 11:28*

### Opening Prayer

**Almighty God and Father, your Son Jesus Christ was raised from death to life, a sign for us of your power over death. May we have faith to trust in your love for humankind so that we find peace in knowing that our dearly loved family and friends are safe in your loving care.**

### Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:

bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
(Please be seated)

### **Psalm 23**

*(Said together)*

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**  
**Prayers of Penitence**  
**Forgiving God, in the face of death we discover  
how many things are still undone,  
how much might have been done otherwise.  
Redeem our failure. Bind up the wounds of past mistakes.  
Transform our guilt to active love  
and by your forgiveness make us whole.  
We pray this in Jesus' name.**

*Minister:*

Almighty God, you love everything you have made  
and judge us with infinite mercy and justice.  
We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace.  
In your mercy you turn the darkness of death  
into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting  
into the joy of heaven;

May God's grace be upon each one of us through the Lord Jesus, our redeemer, who willingly gave himself up to death, so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.

**Bible Reading**

1 Thessalonians Chapter 4 Verses 13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*The reader will say* This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

**John Chapter 11:17-26**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

*The reader will say* 'This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

**Address**

**A Service of Light**

*(You will be invited forward to light a prayer candle should you wish to do so, starting from the rows at the front. Additional candles are available at the front of the church)*

Minister:

We remember before God those whom we love and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

You O Lord are my lamp

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**You turn our darkness into light**

With you O Lord is the well of life  
**In your light shall we see light**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world  
**A light no darkness can quench**

**Hymn**

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers:  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows, the sympathising tear.

When for a while we part, this thought shall soothe our pain,  
that we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives, our courage by the way:  
while each in expectation lives, and longs to see the day,

From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin we shall be free,  
and perfect love and friendship reign, through all eternity.  
*(Please be seated)*

**Prayers**

God our strength and our redeemer: you do not leave us in this life  
nor abandon us in death. Hear our prayer for those in despair,  
for those who go about in mourning all the day long, who feel numb  
and crushed and are filled with the pain of grief, whose strength has  
given up, whose days are full of darkness and the future empty of  
hope.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**  
Renew in those who mourn your sustaining strength, for we believe  
that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from your  
love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**  
Lord of all, we give thanks as we remember all who have entered  
into their rest and reached the promised land where you are seen  
face to face.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**  
Thank you for the memory of those you have called to yourself:  
now may we learn to trust in you, so that casting our care on you,  
we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against  
us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church,  
living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the  
fulfilment of his eternal kingdom. **Amen**

**Hymn**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**Blessing**

And now to him who is able to keep us from falling,  
and lift us from the dark valley of despair  
to the bright mountain of hope,  
from the midnight of desperation  
to the daybreak of joy;  
to him be power and authority, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

**The Offering**

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*(There will be a retiring offering which will be used in the church ministry towards the bereaved)*

**During our service there will be an opportunity to light a candle, why do we do this ?**

**Lighting a candle is a prayer:**

When we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them.

**Lighting a candle is a parable:**

burning itself out it gives light to others.  
Christ gave himself for others.  
He calls us to give ourselves.

**Lighting a candle is a symbol:**

of love and hope, of light and warmth.  
Our world needs them all.

**Why do we release doves ?**

The dove is a sacred bird for Christians, a symbol of purity and innocence and most importantly a reassurance of the presence of God. As we watch them fly we are reminded that at significant times God used a dove to communicate his blessing. As we release doves today we pray for that same blessing to be upon us and our loved ones.

☒ It was a dove which returned with an olive branch to give God's blessing of peace and victory over death to Noah as the waters of the flood subsided. (*Genesis 8*)

☒ King David in his old age spoke of his wish to escape the pain and trouble and to have 'the wings of a dove' to fly away and be at rest. (*Psalms 55*)

☒ At the birth of Jesus it was the purity of the doves which allowed them to be used as an offering. (*Luke 2:24*).

☒ At the baptism of Jesus the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove to show God's presence and blessing. (*Mark 1:10*)

☒ Jesus himself encouraged his disciples to be innocent or gentle as doves (*Matthew 10:16*)

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