

# Readings + All Saints' Sunday, year A + 5 November 2023

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## First Reading Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> 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 worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then the elder 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.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship God day and night within the temple,  
and the One who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

## Psalmody Psalm 34:1-10, 22

I will bless the LORD at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

**I will glory in the LORD; let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; let us exalt God's name together.

**I sought the LORD, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors.**

Look upon the LORD and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

**I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD and delivers them.

**Taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!**

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

**The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

## Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

*The elder writes:*

<sup>1</sup> 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 God. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when Christ is revealed, we will be like Christ, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And all who have this hope in Christ purify themselves, just as Christ is pure.

## Holy Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

*Matthew and Luke both tell of Jesus giving a series of "blessed are you" sayings, both early in Jesus' ministry. Luke's account includes a series of "woe to you" sayings. Only Matthew has v. 4, those who mourn, v. 5, those who are gentle, and vv. 7-9, those who are merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. Luke includes "those who weep now," not on Matthew's list.*

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Those who are poor in spirit are blessed, for theirs is the reign of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Those who mourn are blessed, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Those who are gentle are blessed, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Those who are merciful are blessed, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Those who are pure in heart are blessed, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Those who are peacemakers are blessed, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness are blessed, for theirs is the reign of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "You are blessed when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."