

Sunday 31 October 2021

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Hymns, Readings, and Collect

Opening Hymn: Who are these, like stars appearing

Who are these, like stars appearing,
these before God's throne who stand?
each a golden crown is wearing;
who are all this glorious band?
Alleluia, hark! they sing,
praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
these in God's own truth arrayed,
clad in robes of purest whiteness,
robes whose lustre ne'er shall fade,
ne'er be touched by time's rude hand—
whence comes all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life has ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these, who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These like priests have watched and waited,
offering up to Christ their will,
soul and body consecrated,
day and night to serve him still:
now, in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

All Saints 231 NEH

The Collect

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.

Amen.

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.' Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.') But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Hebrews 12: 18–24

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid; Lift up your voices the Lord is near. Lift up your voices the Lord is near.

You are my salvation; I trust in you, I shall not be afraid, you are my strength; you are my song.

Taizé Community

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

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:

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

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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

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

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

'Blessed 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Matthew 5: 1–12

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

Offertory Hymn: For all the saints

For all the saints who from their labours 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 may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
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!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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!

Sine Nomine 197 NEH

Communion Hymn: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you:
Allelu, alleluia.
Alleluia,
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek, and ye shall find,
knock, and it shall be opened up to you:
Allelu, alleluia.

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God:
Allelu, alleluia.

Seek ye first 775 AM

The Anthem: Give us the wings of faith

Give us the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

We ask them whence their victory came:
they, with one united breath,
ascribe the conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast,
and, following their incarnate God,
they reached the promised rest.

Ernest Bullock (1890–1979)
Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Hymn: Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,
raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, Dominions, Princedoms, Powers,
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs,
Alleluia!

O higher than the Cherubim,
more glorious than the Seraphim,
lead their praises, Alleluia.
Thou Bearer of the eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord.
Alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Ye holy Twelve, ye Martyrs strong,
all Saints triumphant, raise the song,
Alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, Alleluia.
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia!

Lasst uns erfreuen 478 NEH