

[OPENING PRAYERS AND HOLY COMMUNION ARE AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO ON OUR ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES PAGE HERE](#) OR ON OUR [YOUTUBE PAGE HERE](#)

PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS

GREETING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His steadfast love endures for ever!
Grace and peace be with you
and also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Let us then run our race, laying aside every weight and bringing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CANTICLE: A SONG OF GOD'S MERCY

God who is rich in mercy:
out of the great love with which he loved us,
Even when we were dead through our trespasses:
made us alive together with Christ,
And raised us up with him:
and made us sit with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
That he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace:
in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.
Ephesians 2.4–7

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God,
you have filled the world with beauty:
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works,
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness,
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PLEASE PAUSE THE VIDEO – PRESS THE SPACEBAR TO PAUSE

PART 2 — ALL AGE VIDEO ABOUT ALL SAINTS AND DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN [HERE](#)

PART 3 — LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE [SERMON PODCAST](#) (READ ALONG IF YOU WISH) BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE, AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS, TODAY BY JOHN TATMAN.

READINGS (NRSV PREFERRED)

Revelation 7:9-17
Matthew 12:46-50

SERMON BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE

Available to listen online and/or download – access via Pentecost 2020 link and notice also a reasonable library of past sermons for you to listen to as you exercise or meditate...

Let us pray.

In the name of our creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. Amen.

All Saints Day arose out of the Christian tradition of celebrating the saints on the anniversary of their martyrdom. When martyrdoms increased during the persecutions of the late Roman Empire, a common feast day was instituted to ensure that all martyrs, known and unknown, were properly honoured.

But our proper focus on All Saints Day is that all of God's people, on heaven *and* earth, are spiritually connected and united in a tight-knit *communion*. During Holy Communion, the prayers often mention the Communion of the Saints, the whole gathering of heaven with whom we join in thanksgiving and praise.

So what is a saint? The word saint means to be set apart, or to be made holy. It is not a status we work up to, but rather is something simply conferred upon us by God when he calls us into faith.

In the gospel reading, Jesus called those *who do the will of God* as his true brothers and sisters. What does it mean to do the will of God?

Quite simply, to listen, to be aware, and to live in the light of God's spirit.

To be a saint, or to be a true brother or sister of Jesus, is to be set apart, which is also to be free from what might seem the oppressive regime of the world. To be a saint or a true brother or sister of Jesus, means to see the world differently and be able to live in the light of that.

When looking at the writings of the book of Revelation, many mistake the setting to be about saints that are up in heaven. The story line is quite outlandish and not of this earth – but there is a reason why.

Revelation is a genre of ancient Judaism, known today as Jewish apocalyptic. Trying to read it without understanding its genre would be like watching Star Trek or some other science-fiction show thinking it was a historical documentary, or reading a satire as if it were a biography.

But Jewish apocalyptic was known as literature of the oppressed. When you read Revelation in this way it comes alive and you see its subversiveness. Instead of being a book about the distant future, it becomes a way of talking about the challenges of the immediate present. Rather than naming the evil Roman Emperor, a story is told about a dragon, but the meaning is quite implicit. Revelation is a book of warnings and promises.

In today's reading, we have an image of a great multitude of saints who are explained to have 'come out of the great ordeal'. Being a great multitude is both a surprise and an encouragement. For at the time of this writing, Christians appeared to be a sorry minority.

What with war, famine, pestilence, persecution and catastrophe, with attendant defections – the ranks got pretty well decimated. Well that was the idea by the Emperor, I mean the dragon!

But here, the writer, St John, shows this image as foiling the Emperor's, I mean dragon's, intention. This multitude who have been through the 'great ordeal' stand in the presence of God. After the sufferings they have all faced, God leads them now to springs of the water of life – a symbol of rebirth, of cleansing and renewal. They are sheltered by God.

Revelation shows the conflicts of this world, into which, the kingdom of God perseveres and pushes forward. Every person of faith struggles with this world and with the question:

Can, does, God's love and redemption work in this history in which I live?

Or do they only function on a transcendental plane apart from my daily life so that I must develop another plane of consciousness to reach into them, but then return to the ordinary things of life and make do with them the best I can?

Or is God's love and redemption something that is ahead and will be accomplished in the future, while I must put up with things as they are and use whatever survival techniques I can acquire to keep myself alive and in faith until the time comes?

Or, *or*, is it all working right now? Are war and famine and sickness the supreme realities? Or, are peace and bounty and health at the heart of things?

The kingdom of God, here on earth, is not free of tears; but here comfort comes from God, and tears are dried.

The kingdom of God, here on earth, is not free of conflict, but here conflict leads to reconciliation rather than revenge.

The kingdom of God, here on earth, is not free of need, but generosity flows wherever need arises. In short, the kingdom of God, here on earth, is the world promised by the prophets.

Jesus proclaimed that this kingdom is so possible it is at hand, within reach—and as a result, now is the time to rethink everything and begin to learn to live in the ways of the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God, of all God's saints is a mission that penetrates, influences, conflicts and challenges the ways of our world that are not of the kingdom of God. The message of the kingdom of God is that there is another way, a better way than oppressive power, violence and greed.

Reading Revelation as subversive literature gives us warning and promise—to encourage us to live life in this world with urgency, awareness, and intensity, mission and direction; courage, hope, and vigor.

Secondly, it gives us a sense of empowerment and responsibility, not fatalism and resignation. In other words, it invites us—right now—to wake up and live life to the full.

Thirdly, it helps us see the kingdom as having come so that we can now enter it, and as still coming so that we diligently and passionately pray for it, welcome it, receive it, and seek it.

And if we seek God's kingdom first and foremost, Jesus promises, we have nothing to worry about.

Let us pray.

O Lord,

When evil darkens our world, give us light.

When despair numbs our souls, give us hope.

When we stumble and fall, lift us up.

When doubts assail us, give us faith.

When nothing seems sure, give us trust.

When ideals fade, give us vision.

When we lose our way, be our guide!

That we may find serenity in Your presence, and purpose in doing Your will.

In Jesus' name. Amen. (John D. Rayner, Grace Cathedral)

INTERCESSIONS BY JOHN TATMAN

Heavenly Father,
we come together, in our separate places, yet still bound together with your Spirit, and your love; with that mystical woven chord, that binds all of creation together. You have fashioned us from your love, making us brothers and sisters, a family in fellowship, with you, our Heavenly Father. May this be a time of joy, a time for growing, a time for strengthening, a time for loving, a quality time, a time to feel your Love surround us, as we pray for all people and the Church throughout the world. We pray for our world Leaders, those who make and administer our laws, and all those with responsibility. We remember all the people of the world affected by the virus, especially those who have lost their work and income, those who are suffering, and those who mourn. Lord, forgive the misery we bring upon ourselves through disobeying our laws and your laws, save us from the disruptive forces among us. Strengthen all who are working for a cure of the virus, and those who are working for justice. Unite us as a people in love of freedom and in the cause of righteousness. Teach us as citizens of this country to rely on your wisdom and to accept our responsibilities to one another, so that we will serve you faithfully in our generation and honour your holy name.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for our Church, for Philip our Archbishop, for Paul our Bishop, Jennie our Priest, all who assist with the worship here, and all your faithful people. Father, you have revealed yourself and your perfect love to the Church. You have washed us with the blood of the Lamb, clothed us in the whitest robes, and lead us to the springs of living water. We pray for the grace to continue steadfast in our confession of this faith, and in our worship of you, our Father in Heaven.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for our community, and all who reside here. We thank you Lord for all those things in our community, and in our lives, we have through your great love and mercy. We pray that you will enable us to be worthy of our calling, to be your brothers and sisters. Lord save us from being ungrateful, save us from magnifying our troubles, and forgetting our neighbours, and your blessings. Give us strength to rise into a joyfulness of heart, to hear the birds singing, to see the return of Spring, and to live from day to day producing the fruit of your spirit, and giving thanks always for all things.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need, and we bring before you in silence the names of those known to us... God of all comfort, we commend to you those who are tempted to lose heart; those who have no security of home or work, those who see no purpose or meaning in life, those who find it difficult to believe in you, and those who suffer from incurable illness. Enable us all to trust you, and though at times your way is hidden from our sight, give us all courage, hope and peace in the knowledge of your healing love.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, we praise you for the Saints who have gone before us, and we give thanks for the life and work of Trevor Andrew, who departed this life to be with you on 5/11/2018. We rejoice to know that your reign extends far beyond the limits of this life, in the mystery of what lies beyond our sight. We pray that your love will complete its work in those, whose days on earth have ended; and grant that we who serve you now in this world, may at last, share with them in the glories of your Heavenly Kingdom, through the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our lord who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
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 for ever. Amen.

PLEASE RESUME THE VIDEO FOR HOLY COMMUNION BY PRESSING THE SPACEBAR

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

OPENING (GREAT THANKSGIVING)

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

COMMUNION

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit
was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks because you have called us into the fellowship of all your saints,
and set before us the example of their witness
and the fruit of your Spirit in their lives.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great
and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my
body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

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

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessing and honour and glory and power,
are yours forever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE.

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:
so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

THE COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God, the source of all holiness:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast in your kingdom.

Father,
You sent your Son to bring us truth
and your Spirit to make us holy;
open our hearts to exalt you,
open our lives to reveal you,
our one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

BLESSING

God give you grace to follow all the saints in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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