## All Saints Day

This is a celebration offering us the chance to honour all the saints, known and unknown. It reminds us of the profound unity that exists between heaven and earth—a spiritual connection that transcends time, culture, and status. Today we honour those who have gone before us and also recognise our own journey towards holiness and the ways in which we are called to live in the spirit of the saints.

All Saints' Day is incredibly inclusive, commemorating **all** who have faithfully followed Christ, even if their names are now forgotten. This day is an expression of hope, pointing to the transformative power of God's grace, which turns ordinary people into extraordinary witnesses of love, charity, and faith. The saints, in all their diversity, provide us with a glimpse of what it means to live in communion with God. It reminds us that sainthood is not limited to a select few who achieved great fame or accomplished extraordinary feats; rather it encompasses countless quiet, humble people whose lives were deeply rooted in faith. We are challenged to remember that holiness is not reserved for the few but is the vocation of all of us.

In today's Gospel Jesus describes the path to holiness in a way that is both universal and personal. Sainthood is less about perfection and more about a life oriented toward God and others. The saints are models for us, not because they were sinless, but because they allowed God's grace to work in and through them, even in their weakness. As we reflect on the lives of the saints, we are challenged to ask ourselves if we are living in a way that reflects God's love, justice, and mercy.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Common Worship: Additional Collects and Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included in this service are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2004 & 2006 respectively. Scripture quotations are from the NRSV National Council of the Churches of Christ CCLI License No: 57904 Charity No: 1134140

**All Saints Day** **1st November**

### GATHERING HYMN:

'God is Here as We His People' (200)

### 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**

### FIRST READING **Revelation 7: 9-17**

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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'
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 worshipped God, singing,
'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he 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.
For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**SECOND READING** **1 John 3: 1-3**

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 him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, 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.

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**GRADUAL HYMN:** 'Give Thanks for Those whose Faith is Firm' (185)

**We sing verse 5 after the Gospel Reading**

**GOSPEL** **Matthew 5: 1-12**

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.'

**OFFERTORY HYMN:**
'O Lord, All the World Belongs to You' (498)

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

'Blest Are the Pure in Heart ' (69)

'Here is Bread' (262)

'Gifts of Bread and Wine' (182)

**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.

**FINAL HYMN:** 'For All the Saints ' (161) We omit verses 5 & 6