

Worship Aid for All Hallows/Saints/Souls Day, 2023

Welcome-

Opening Hymn

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

*(Response to Litany: Pray **with** us)*

Response to litany: Pray **with** us.

Mary and Joseph,  
Huldah, Sarah, and Miriam,  
Leah and Rachel,  
Rebecca, Ruth, and Esther,  
Judith, Deborah, Samuel,  
Mother Maccabee,  
Anna, Joachim, Elizabeth  
Isaiah, Jeremiah.

All you holy men and women pray **with** us.

Peter, Paul, and Andrew,  
Mary Magdalene and all apostles,  
Martha, Mary, Phoebe,  
Barnabas and Lydia,  
Stephen, Phillip, Theodora,  
Prisca and Aquila,  
Timothy and Lois,  
Linus, Thecla, Junia.

All you...

Scholastica and Benedict,  
Clare and Francis,  
Jane de Chantal,

Bridgit and Patrick,  
Julian of Norwich,  
Hildegard of Bingen,  
Peter Abelard,  
Meister Eckhart.

All you...

August Englert,  
Joseph Butler,  
Nancy Bradbury,  
Carolyn Nelson,  
Marion Gallagher,  
Jack Bendon,  
Craig Fisher,  
Myra Callahan

All you...

P: Because we remember the paths created by those who have gone before us, we gather in the name of the Creator with whom we share divinity, the redeemer with whom we share humanity, and the Holy Spirit who unsettles and inspires us.

A: Amen

P: The grace of our Jesus, our Emmanuel, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

A: And also with you.

P: My sisters and brothers, today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. For the communion of saints, the great cloud of witnesses upon whose shoulders we stand, let us bow our heads in thanksgiving.

P: God of our ancestors, today we gather to our hearts all those who have influenced our lives with their love and goodness. Although they have passed on to the other side of life, their lives continue to affect who we are and what we do.

Like the sound of a bell resounding in the welcoming air, so has the goodness of these holy ones resonated in our lives. The response is “We give thanks.”

P: For the light filled ones who enkindled our spirits with their teachings and the sparks of their beliefs, R.

P: For the risk takers who faced their fears and took action, who sought justice even though they paid a price, R.

P: For the vulnerable ones who allowed us to care for them in their time of need, R.

P: For the faith-filled ones who brought us to the Holy One, who led us by example into a deeper relationship with God, R.

P: For the great lovers of life whose humor and enthusiasm lifted our spirits and brought us joy, R.

P: For the nurturers who birthed us physically or spiritually, who gave us sustenance by their caring presence. R.

### Memory of the Dead

P: This Sunday, we remember the powerful communication we have with our holy souls. Let us recall them all with love and remember the precious memories we keep stored in our hearts. Please feel free to say the names of your beloved dead and hold up their pictures if you like.

### Prayer

P: Sustainer of life, we thank you for the holy ones whom we have known and loved. As they embrace you in eternity, we hold them in our hearts. We ask that our lives model their virtues and our hearts resonate with their love. In Jesus' name we pray.

A: Amen.

Readings

## First Reading

A reading from St. Catherine of Siena

We work so hard to fly and no matter what heights we reach our wings get folded near a candle at the end, for nothing can enter God but Herself. Our souls are some glorious substance of the divine that no sentry wants to stop.

Live without thought of dying, for dying is not a truth.

We have swayed on the sky's limb together, many years there the same leaves grow. But then they get that look in their eyes and bid farewell to what they disdained or cherished.

This life She gave to us, the daily struggles we know. Sit quiet for a minute, dear, feel the wind, let Light touch you. Live without thought of dying, for dying is not a truth. (From *Love Poems from God* by Daniel Ladinsky.)

Wisdom according to our God.

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalm refrain: **My journey is beautiful** (Ode 7, Psalms of Solomon, adapted)

My joy is God and my course is toward Her. She is a keeper for me and has made Her entire self known to me, without grudge. Indeed, Her kindness has shrunk Her immensity.

**My journey is beautiful.**

She became like me so that I might receive Her. She seemed like me in form so that I would put Her on, so I did not tremble when I saw Her, because She seemed compassionate to me. She became like my own nature, so that I might join with Her and as my image so that I would not turn back from Her.

**My journey is beautiful.**

The Mother of perception is the word of understanding. The one who created wisdom is wiser than creation. The one who created me when I did not exist knew

what I would do while I existed. Because of this, that one was compassionate to me with abundant mercy.

**My journey is beautiful.**

Let the singers sing of the kindness of the Most High. Let them bring their psalms. Let their hearts be as the day and their chants as the great beauty of God. Let there be no one without knowledge, no one without a voice, for God gave a mouth to creation. Praise Her. Acknowledge Her strength. Demonstrate Her kindness.

**My journey is beautiful.**

us.

Wisdom according to our God.

A: Thanks be to God.

A reading from Jan Richardson

For those/who walked with us,/this is a prayer./For those/who have gone ahead,/this is a blessing.

For those/who touched and tended us,/who lingered with us while they lived,/this is a thanksgiving.

For those/who journey still with us  
in the shadows of awareness,  
in the crevices of memory,  
in the landscape of our dreams,  
this is a benediction.

Wisdom according to our God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Alleluia- sung

P: Our God be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: A reading from the holy gospel based upon the words of Mathew.

A: Glory to you, O God.

"Blessed are those who are convinced of their basic dependency on God, whose lives are emptied of all that doesn't matter, those for whom the riches of this world just aren't that important. The Kindom of heaven is theirs. (Matt: 5:3, Poor in Spirit)

Blessed are those who know that all they are a gift from God, and so they can be content with their greatness and their smallness, knowing themselves and 'being true' to themselves. They shall have the earth for their heritage. (Matt: 5:4, Lowly and Gentle)

Blessed are those who wear compassion like a garment, those who have learnt how to find themselves by losing themselves in another's sorrow. They too shall receive comfort. (Matt: 5:5, Sorrowing and Mourning)

Blessed are those who are hungry for goodness, those who never get enough of God and truth and righteousness. They shall be satisfied. (Matt: 5:6, Hunger and Thirst)

Blessed are the merciful, those who remember how much has been forgiven them, and are able to extend this forgiveness into the lives of others. They too shall receive God's mercy. (Matt: 5:7, Show mercy)

Blessed are those whose hearts are free and simple, those who have smashed all false images and are seeking honestly for truth. They too shall see God, (Matt: 5:8, Single [Pure] hearted)

Blessed are the creators of peace, those who build roads that unite rather than walls that divide, those who bless the world with the healing power of their presence. They shall be called children of God. (Matt: 5:9, Peacemakers)

Blessed are those whose love has been tried, like gold, in the furnace and found to be precious, genuine and lasting, those who have lived their belief out loud, no matter what the cost or pain. Theirs is the kindom of heaven. (Matt: 5:10, Persecuted for Uprightness)

This is the gospel of our salvation.

A: Praise to you, O God.

Homily- Please remember the ABC's of sharing.

Prayers of the People

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer.

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

(While holding up the bread) Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

A: Blessed be God forever.

(While pouring water.) By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who became one with us and shared in our humanity.

(While holding up the wine) Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

A: Blessed be God forever.

P: O God who reflects the splendor of humanity, we offer this bread and wine to you as symbols of our fidelity to you We ask you to remind us that to break bread together is to share I each other's blessings and to drink of the cup is to say "yes" to each other's fate.

A: Holy One, accept these gifts from our hands, for the praise and glory of your name, for our good and the good of all your people.

P: Our God be with you.           A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.           A: We lift them up to our God.

P: Let us give thanks to our God.    A: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: There is a mystery in the journey of life which includes both life and death. We open ourselves to this mystery.

A: Death speaks to us of the wonder of being human in a universe so vast and so magnificent and of our existence within a mystery and a power that we cannot understand or put into words.

P: In a very real sense, this vast and wonderful universe of ours came alive in our loved ones. They gave God a way of coming into expression here in our lives in a place that reached out and touched us.

A: They live and loved in God. God lived and loved in them. We believe that our loved ones live on in all whom they touched.

P: Overwhelmed with gratitude, we now sing with heartfelt joy:

A: Holy, holy, holy, Spirit of love and of peace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

A: We believe in the communion of saints. We believe that in death we are transformed into a new way of living on in God. We also believe that here and now we are also living in God. We are the earthen vessels which give God a way of coming to expression.

P: If you would please extend your hands with me. Here now, God comes to visible expression in each of us. And so, you who are Love, we recognize your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and this wine and in us. We open ourselves to your spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become you in us, the Body and Blood of Jesus.

P: And so, loving God, to help us remember the call you have given us, we gather here at Jesus' command to celebrate this simple meal. On the evening before he was betrayed, Jesus took bread into his hands, blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciples with these words,

A: "Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you. When you break bread together, remember me."

P: At the end of the meal, he took the cup filled with wine. Again, he gave you thanks. He handed the cup to his disciples and said,

A: "Take this all of you and drink from it. This is my blood, the new covenant of God-with-you. When you drink from this cup, remember me."

P: My sisters and brothers, every time you eat this bread of justice and drink this cup that promises freedom, you proclaim with your life the love of God and the love for all of God's creation.

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ has come again.

P: We thank you for good people, the saints among us, who have allowed the message of Jesus to find generous expression in their lives and have sought to make the reign of God visible on earth. We give thanks for women and men of all religious faiths who have allowed the spirit of God to work freely and generously in their lives.

A: We pray that our connectedness with Jesus and with all that exists may expand our hearts and our minds to allow the Spirit of Life to move more freely in us. We pray for this for ourselves, for our communities, for our country, and for all humanity.

P: We pray for those who lead people, families, organizations, and countries that the common good permeate their agenda and the golden rule of treating others as they would like to be treated prevail. May the bread and wine that we are about to share inspire us to work towards that vision here and now.

A: Through Christ, may all creation be one. With Christ, may all divisions be healed. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, may all glory and honor be yours, forever and ever. Amen.

(Adapted from Michael Morwood, Praying a New Story.)

## Our Father by Joe Wise

Our Father, you are in heaven; our Mother, you call us home;  
Our Brother, you are the first there, our Sister, your kingdom come.

Our Father, you are in my heart, our Mother, I love your name,  
Our Brother, you love us so much, our Sister we do the same  
Forgive us all, the things we do; that break the chain of hands with you  
Give us this day our daily bread and hold us close  
Just like you said.

Our Father, you are in heaven; our Mother, you call us home;  
Our Brother, you are the first there, our Sister, your kingdom come  
Our Father, our Brother, our Sister, our Mother, our God.

### Sign of Peace

P: This is Jesus who loves us just the way we are. How happy are we to be called to this banquet.

A: Jesus, you make us worthy to receive you and by your word, we have been healed.

### Communion

The bread that we have broken is our communion and the cup we share is our communion in and with the Body and Blood of Christ. Receive what you are, the Body and Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

### Where Charity and Love Prevail # 492

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love we are this bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;  
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek, be ours God's holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;  
As members of his body joined, we are in Christ made one.

No race nor creed can love exclude, if honored be God's name;  
Our family embraces all whose Father is the same.

Prayer After Communion

### **A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day**

A: We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you  
Whether in arbors or cathedrals,  
Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses  
Where your name was lifted and adored.

B: We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:  
Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil,  
Strong hands and those gnarled with age  
Holy hands which have delivered babies and closed the eyes of the dead,  
Hands that distribute food to the needy.

A: We thank you, God, for hardworking saints;  
Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted,  
Head ragged or aproned, masked,  
Blue-collared or three-piece-suited  
They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.

B: We thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have  
gone before us.  
We bless the memories of your saints, God.  
May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication,  
worship, and love. (From :Discipleship Ministries, adapted.)

A: Amen

Announcements

## Blessing

P: People of God, let us go out as one Body, Christ's Body. Rise to the occasion. Lift up your hearts. And rest assured that God loves you. May She Who is Peace bless you all in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

P: The mass is ended. Let the service begin.

A: Thanks be to our God.

## Recessional

Lead Me Lord #739

Blessed are the poor in spirit longing for their God, For God's coming kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blessed are the sorrowing for they shall be consoled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.

**Refrain:** Lead me Lord, Lead me Lord, by the light of truth, to seek and to find  
the narrow way. Be my way, be my truth, be my life my Lord,  
and lead me Lord today.

Blessed are the merciful for mercy shall be theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.  
Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill, for I say they shall be satisfied. **Ref.**

Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace, all will call them children of the Lord.  
Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life, for in heaven great is your reward. **Ref.**