

Collect and Lessons for All Saints' Day Observed
Sunday, October 29, 2023

Opening Hymn 243 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*
Sermon Hymn 197 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*
Closing Hymn 126 *For All the Saints*

The Collect.

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord; Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

The First Lesson is written in the 44th Chapter of the Book Ecclesiasticus beginning at the 1st verse:

Let us now sing the praises of famous men, the heroes of our nation's history, through whom the Lord established his renown, and revealed his majesty in each succeeding age.

Some held sway over kingdoms and made themselves a name by their exploits. Others were sage counsellors, who spoke out with prophetic power. Some led the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of the nation's law; out of their fund of wisdom they gave instruction. Some were composers of music or writers of poetry. Others were endowed with wealth and strength, living peacefully in their homes.

All these won fame in their generation and were the pride of their times. Some there are who have left a name behind them to be commemorated in story. There are others who are unremembered; they are dead, and it is as though they had never existed, as though they had never been born or left children to succeed them. Not so our forefathers; they were men of loyalty, whose good deeds have never been forgotten.

Their prosperity is handed on to their descendants and their inheritance to future generations. Thanks to them their children are within the covenants- the whole race of their descendants. Their line will endure for all time, and their fame will never be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives forever. Nations will recount their wisdom, and God's people will sing their praises. Here endeth the First Lesson.

Psalm 149. *Cantate Domino.*

We will recite Psalm 149 responsively by the whole verse:

1 O Sing unto the LORD a new song; * let the congregation of saints praise him.

2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him, * and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the dance: * let them sing praises unto him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the LORD hath pleasure in his people, * and helpeth the meek-hearted.

5 Let the saints be joyful with glory; * let them rejoice in their beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their mouth; * and a two-edged sword in their hands;

7 To be avenged of the nations, * and to rebuke the peoples;

8 To bind their kings in chains, * and their nobles with links of iron;

9 To execute judgment upon them; as it is written, * Such honour have all his saints.

Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

The New Testament Lesson

The New Testament Lesson is written in the 12th Chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews beginning at the 1st verse:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Here endeth the New Testament Lesson.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel is written in the 5th Chapter of Matthew beginning at the 1st verse:

Glory be to thee, O Lord

Jesus seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: ² And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, ³ Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to thee, O Christ