

# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2021



If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

A: Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

### Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

### Introduction

L: Today we celebrate not any single saint, but all those who, after life on this earth, now rejoice in God's eternal presence in heaven. These may be members of our own families, or friends we have known: they come from all ages, all walks of life, all nations and races. Celebrating their victory inspires us: we too are called to be saints in our turn. As we give thanks for their friendship, intercessions and example, let's praise God and ask for mercy, saying:

### Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 5:1-12a*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Reflection

Today is a celebration of the "ordinary saints" – not the popes and bishops and miracle workers and missionaries of bygone ages, but the ordinary folk who have lived this life close to Jesus, taking for their model the vision he sets out in today's Gospel – the Beatitudes. They are in so many ways the opposite of what the world says brings lasting fame and fortune. But what we celebrate today is that there is a "fame and fortune" which outlasts anything this world can give: heaven. No one should ever say, "I can't be a saint." With the aid of the wonderful forgiveness of God, which Jesus constantly proclaims, we can overcome all things, so that planted in God's love and nourished by that same love, we may join that happy multitude already in heaven, fulfilling our God-given destiny by becoming saints ourselves.

### For our Younger Friends

What do you want to be when you grow up? I bet people have asked you that question! You probably have some good ideas, but have you ever said "I want to be a saint"? I bet that would surprise some people! But this is what Jesus wants us all to be, and today we are celebrating the millions upon millions of people who have lived before us and now are happy for ever with God in heaven. I bet you have known some of them – someone who was so good, so kind, so

holy that after they died, God welcomes them to the huge crowd of his saints. Let's pray today that we can all be saints!

*If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.*

### Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

### Intercessions

- L: Let us think of our prayers for this Sunday.
- L: Let us pray for the Church on earth, that each of us may be inspired by today's feast and seek holiness in our lives. Lord, in your mercy ...
- A: Hear our prayer.
- L: We pray for the world we live in, that our example of goodness may help other on their way to heaven. Lord, in your mercy ...
- A: Hear our prayer.
- L: We pray for our departed brothers and sisters, that they may receive the reward of their labours, for their good deeds go with them. Lord, in your mercy ...
- A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

## THE COMMUNION RITE

### The Lord's Prayer

- L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
- A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.
- L: May these prayers we bring in honour of all the Saints be pleasing to you, O Lord, and grant that, just as we believe the Saints to be already assured of immortality, so we may experience their concern for our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.
- A: Amen.

### Before Spiritual Communion

- L: Today by your gift we celebrate the festival of your city, the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother, where the great array of our brothers and sisters already gives you eternal praise. Towards her, we eagerly hasten, as pilgrims advancing by faith, rejoicing in the glory bestowed upon those exalted members of the Church through whom you give us, in our frailty, both strength and good example. At the Last Supper your Son showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

### Spiritual Communion

- A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.


Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

## Thanksgiving Psalm

- L: Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
- A: Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
- L: The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.
- A: Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
- L: Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.
- A: Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.
- L: He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- A: Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

### Final Prayer and Blessing

- L: Let us pray.
- As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints, we implore your grace, so that, coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of your love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland. Through Christ our Lord.
- A: Amen.
- L: May the Lord  bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
- A: Amen.
- L: Let us bless the Lord!
- A: Thanks be to God!



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