



Order of worship

All Saints' Day

November 1, 2020

Call to worship *(Psalm 34:1-5)*

I will bless the Lord at all times;
God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt God's name together.

I sought the Lord, and God answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to the Lord, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

Call to confession

God loves us so much that we are called children of God. When we see God face to face we will resemble our Lord. In anticipation of that day, we come before God and confess our sin, seeking to repent and be reshaped into a closer image of the One we follow and worship. Let us pray.

Prayer of confession

Lord of every tribe and nation, on this day when we remember and give thanks for all the saints, we are mindful of the countless ways we fail to follow their example of loyalty and faithfulness. We capitulate to idolatry. We worship the false gods of our time instead of bowing down before the Lamb on the throne. We imagine all people gathered in praise of you and lament how we make our witness through our divisions and strife. Forgive us for acting as if earthly powers are ultimate. Hear our plea to find our hope, our life, our salvation in you alone. Accept our repentance and reshape us in ways that glorify you. Amen.



Assurance of pardon (*Psalm 34:8-9*)

O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in the Lord. O fear the Lord, you God's holy ones, for those who fear God have no want. Friends, believe the good news, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Gracious God, we come to worship carrying with us the concerns of the world, the worries on our hearts and burdens that have become too heavy for us to carry. In the light of your Word reveal to us that which truly matters, those things we need to expose in order that healing might happen, and the next step that will take us closer to our Lord. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.



Call for the offering

Come before God with gifts and offerings that reflect your joy and gratitude for God's grace and goodness. Come before God with praise and worship, joining with all the saints as we present to God with gladness a portion of all the God has entrusted us to steward.

Prayer of dedication

Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end, there is nowhere we can flee from your Spirit, no place God-forsaken or unable to be transformed by your redemptive power. As we remember the saints who ran the race before them and were called good and faithful servants, we are humbled and inspired to seek to follow you more closely and imitate those who imitated Christ. We offer these gifts as a sign of our desire to be loyal to you and loving to our neighbors. Take them, bless them, distribute them in ways that reveal your goodness to your creation. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Lord, all the saints sing your praise, bow down in worship and pray without ceasing before your throne. In gratitude for their witness and in thanksgiving that you call us children of God, we come to you seeking your will and relishing the chance to be in relationship with you and all the saints.

You tell us that the poor in spirit are blessed. While we often seek fleeting riches and worldly status, you remind us that those whose focus is on you, those who seek to serve and the least of these are the ones who know your blessing. When we struggle to find our way to you, turn us toward the poor and the poor in spirit in order that we might be found in and with you.

You say that those who mourn are blessed. In this time of pandemic and economic upheaval, natural disasters and human inflicted violence, there are many of your children in mourning. Comfort them in their distress. Relieve their suffering. Make your blessing evident and felt.

You name blessed those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. In a time when injustice is unmasked on every corner and earthly powers exploit and abuse, make us hungry, starving for righteousness. Feed us on the bread of life that never fails to satisfy and never slake our thirst for doing good.

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The meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, while the world overlooks and ignores them, you, Lord, proclaim them blessed. Knowing this divine truth, turn us toward and make us one among the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart who commit to following you no matter where you lead them.

When strife seems unending and violence grips without surrender, grant us the courage to be peacemakers, those who refuse to give in to the idea that might makes right but instead stand stalwart in your mercy.

Do not let us shrink from following you even when it requires risk and taking a stand no matter the cost. Help us to be numbered among your good and faithful servants, all days and in the end.

We pray in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, *Our Father...*

Benediction (*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, 28*)

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body
be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful and will do this.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield
and provided for free distribution.

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