

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away (*especially John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen whom we commemorate today*). Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 94. **Tuesday** 1 Timothy 5:9-16. **Wednesday** Luke 4:16-30. **Thursday** (commemoration of Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397; Søren Aabye Kirkegaard, teacher, 1855) Psalm 16. **Friday** Daniel 4:19-27. **Saturday** Mark 12:1-12. **25th Sunday after Pentecost** Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

CELEBRATE November 7, 2021 (All Saints Sunday)

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Celebrate

All Saints Sunday
November 7, 2021

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-
aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow,
of well-aged wines strained
clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all
peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all
nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away

the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all
the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have
waited for him, so that he
might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we
have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his
salvation.

or Wisdom 3:1-9 [not printed]

Writing shortly before the time of Jesus, the author of this highly respected wisdom book offers a glorious vision of the righteous resting and at peace in the hand of God.

They shall re - ceive a bless - ing from the
 God of their sal - va - tion.

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
 the world and those who dwell therein.

²For the LORD has founded it up- on the seas
 and established it up- on the rivers. **R**

³Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD,
 and who may stand in God's holy place?

⁴Those of innocent hands and puri- ty of heart,
 who do not swear on God's being,
 nor do they pledge by what is false.

⁵They shall receive blessing from the LORD
 and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD,
 of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. **R**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- lasting doors,
 that the King of glory may come in.

⁸Who is this King of glory?
 The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- y in battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- lasting doors,
 that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory?
 Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory. **R**

Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
 they will be his peoples,
 and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
 for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."