

2 November – All Souls

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

This day of commemoration began early in the Middle Ages with annual prayers for the dead in monastic communities. Fixed on this day, it spread more widely after the tenth century and now ranks with the principal feast days in the liturgical calendar. Commonly known as All Souls, it expresses Christian faith in the communion of saints and our need to pray for one another in the Church, especially the souls in purgatory.

First Reading † Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord God will destroy death for ever.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 26:1.4.13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or

***I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord
in the land of the living.***

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or

***I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord
in the land of the living.***

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,

to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or

***I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord
in the land of the living.***

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or

***I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord
in the land of the living.***

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

or

***I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord
in the land of the living.***

Second Reading † Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men.

It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son?

Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † John 6:39

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me,
and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel [Year A] † Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You have hidden these things from the learned and have revealed them to children.

Jesus exclaimed,

‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

‘Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [Year B] † Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’

which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you deserted me?’ When some of those who stood by heard this, they said,

‘Listen, he is calling on Elijah’.

Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying,

‘Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down’.

But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said,

‘In truth this man was a son of God’.

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising. They had been saying to one another,

‘Who will roll away the stone for us
from the entrance to the tomb?’

But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them,

‘There is no need for alarm.
You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth,
who was crucified:
he has risen, he is not here.
See, here is the place where they laid him.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [Year C] † Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Young man, I say to you, arise.

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her.

When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her.

‘Do not cry,’

he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said,

‘Young man, I tell you to get up’.

And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying,

‘A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people’.

And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.