

1 November – All Saints

SOLEMNITY; white

This feast began in the East to commemorate all martyrs and was progressively adopted in the West. Celebrated on this day in the eighth century and soon widely observed. Honoured today are all holy men and women in glory with Christ: known or unknown, mighty or lowly, all whose lives were modelled on the Beatitudes and on the great commandment of love.

First Reading † Revelation 7:2-4,9-14

*I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting,
of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Then I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, having the seal of the living God; he cried out in a loud voice to the four angels whose duty was to damage land and sea, ‘Wait before you damage land or sea or trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I looked and saw a huge crowd, which no one could count, from every nation, race, tribe and language, standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They were crying out in a loud voice,

‘Salvation to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words,

‘Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour and power and strength
to our God for ever and ever. Amen.’

One of the elders then spoke and asked me,

‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’

I answered him,

‘My lord, you know.’

Then he said,

‘These are they who have come through the great trial; they have washed their robes and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 23:1-6

Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on streams of water he made it firm.

Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Blessings from the Lord shall they receive,
and righteousness from God their saviour.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Second Reading † 1 John 3:1-3

We shall see God as he really is.

A reading from the first letter of St John

See what great love the Father has lavished on us
by letting us be called God's children,
and that is what we are!

The reason why the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.
My dear friends, we are already God's children,
but what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We know that when he appears
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

Whoever treasures this hope of him
purifies himself, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 11:28

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me all you that labour and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Matthew 5:1-12

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went onto the mountain. And when he was seated his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

*Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of righteousness,
for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

‘Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.