

NOVEMBER 5, 2023
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



We are blessed by the saints we have known.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes
Monday	Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away tears
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-3	Our hope in God
Wednesday	Romans 1:1-15	Prayer of thanksgiving
Thursday	Psalms 16	Psalm of trust
Friday	Colossians 1:24–2:5	Paul's interest in the Colossians
Saturday	Psalms 34:1-10, 22	Honor the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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

Matthew 5:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of grace and glory, you promise us a future filled with peace and joy; we thank you for giving us saints to bless us along our life's way through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food we taste and see that you are good. We give you thanks for this meal and all our blessings through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 34:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy of God and the power of the Holy Spirit save you from every trouble through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 34:6)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Behold the Host
Arrayed in White*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- In what ways do you feel you have been blessed?
- Is there someone you feel God has placed in your life to bless you? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 5:1-12.

The Beatitudes (meaning blessedness) listed in this reading are a series of blessings announced by Jesus. A blessing is defined as a gift or favor bestowed by God. Society often misinterprets a blessing as a possession of the wealthy, the healthy, and the assertive, but Jesus blesses the poor, the sick, and the meek and promises a reversal of fortune. The source of that reversal is God. This includes the work of saints called by God. The saints are the children of God sent to us to heal, to forgive, and to renew life in Jesus' name. As we remember those saints who have come before us, we give thanks that they have been the source of blessings to enrich us, comfort us, and be merciful to us. Their actions reflect the kingdom of God. We take time to give thanks for all the saints, especially those who have personally touched our lives with God's love in Christ. This divine love promises to reverse the way things are to make them consistent with the ways of God.

Discuss: Who are some of the saints who have touched your life?

Pray: **Eternal God, we thank you for your many blessings, especially those that have come to us through saints we have known and loved through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to bring comfort and hope?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to remember all the saints in our lives, both the living and the dead. Think or talk about memories you have of someone who has blessed your life. Light a candle and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the life of [name]. I am grateful for all the blessings that came to my life through them. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org