

NOVEMBER 3, 2019  
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



*Give thanks for the saints.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 6:20-31</b>	<b>Blessed are you who weep</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18</b>	<b>Daniel's visions</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 1:11-23</b>	<b>Paul's prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</b>	<b>Greetings to the saints at Corinth</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Romans 16:1-16</b>	<b>Personal greetings for the saints</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 8:1-7</b>	<b>Encouragement to be generous</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 149</b>	<b>A new song of praise</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 20:27-38</b>	<b>Jesus speaks of the resurrection</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. **Ephesians 1:15-16 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God of our Lord Jesus Christ, give us wisdom to come to know you and a thankful heart for all the saints. Amen. (Ephesians 1:17-18)

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

As we receive this food today, we seek your blessing for those who are hungry now that they may be filled. Amen. (Luke 6:21)

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord bless you, fill you with good things and give you joy. (Luke 6:20-21)



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*For All the Saints*



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is someone you look up to? Why?
- Think of someone you think is a "saint." How would you describe what makes them a "saint?"
- Name a person you admire for their faith in Christ. In what ways have they influenced you?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Ephesians 1:11-23.

We can easily think of saints as those who live (or lived) super-Christian lives, people who are heroes of the faith, especially from the past. However, saints are simply those people who have "obtained an inheritance . . . according to the purpose of him [Christ]" (v. 11). In 1 Corinthians 1:2, Paul considered the believers at Corinth "saints," although there were all kinds of conduct that Paul strongly opposed in the church there. We are made saints by the counsel and will of Christ. Ephesians 1:15 commends the church at Ephesus for their faith and love for "all the saints." And this is why Paul gives thanks for this community of believers. It is easy to judge and condemn those around us, but to give thanks for and to bless (Luke 6:20-22) the saints, the church, which is Christ's body, is what we do. The more we—for the sake of Christ—give thanks for our fellow saints, past and present, the more we can move ahead to bless the world with the power of the risen Christ. Who are some of the saints—past and present—who have blessed you and who you want to give thanks for today?

*Pray:* **Holy God, as people who are called "saints," give us the faith to offer thanks for those around us called by the will of Christ to live for the praise of your glory. Amen.**

## SERVICE



In 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 Paul is speaking about the church in Macedonia. They were going through hard times and not wealthy, but their giving was driven by joy and their praise of Christ's love for them. They were filled with God's grace and gave generously. A Christian response to God's gift of grace is giving. In what ways do you embrace this gift through giving of your time, talents, and treasures?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



All Saints Sunday is a time when we remember those who have gone before us as well as those Christians who surround us in our daily life of faith. It is a day to think about the family of God and our own families who are part of that same faith family. Find a family picture album and tell stories as you look at family and friends. How did they inspire you? What role did they have in your faith journey?



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