Readings for November 1

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could
count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm
branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the
Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the
four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and
worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in
white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the
one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of
the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the
blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Psalm: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)

1 I will bless the LORD | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.
2 **I will glory | in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear | and rejoice. R
3 Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;

let us exalt God's | name together.
4 **I sought the LORD, who | answered me**
and delivered me from | all my terrors.
5 Look upon the LORD | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.
6 **I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me**
and saved me from | all my troubles. R
7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD
and de- | livers them.
8 **Taste and see that the | LORD is good;**
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!
9 Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.
10 **The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.
22 O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. **R**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of
God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that
it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be
has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed,
we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope
in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat
down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them,
saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will
be filled.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all
kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for
your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.”