Suggested Opening Song: All Creatures of Our God and King, #157

We set every Sunday aside to worship the Lord, but today we also remember the saints. These men and women served the Lord during their time on earth and continue to give witness to the Lord by the example of their lives. During this month at the end of autumn, when we give thanks for the abundance of the harvest for another year, we also give thanks to God, whose harvest of souls in heaven we recognize in all the saints. May we one day join them and reap the heavenly reward that our Lord has won for us.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 142
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow as we say*) ***and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*** **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Introductory Rite:
Greeting:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 10
Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:
Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:
First Reading p. 114
A reading from the Book of Revelation *Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14*

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb."

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed:

"Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 24: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6*
R/. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.
R/. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. **R/.**

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. **R/.**

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. **R/.**

Second Reading
A reading from the First Letter of Saint John *1 John 3:1-3*

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel *Matthew 5:1-12a*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew **Glory to you, Lord**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reflection on the Word:

- Matthew's Gospel is structured around five lengthy discourses from Jesus. The first of these is the Sermon on the Mount, and the passage we hear today is the very beginning. This suggests that when Jesus wants to address his disciples and the crowds he drew, he begins by telling them the Beatitudes. To the many who were undoubtedly poor in spirit, he assured them that the kingdom of heaven was theirs. To his disciples, whom he would one day commission to minister to those in mourning, he taught them to comfort them as God does. To them all, he described the glory of heaven, when the hunger and poverty and persecution in this world would be overcome. It is after this first sermon that people began to marvel at how Jesus taught with such authority.

- Jesus was able to teach about heaven with such authority because he came down from heaven in the first place. Thus, he could promise the rewards of heaven for those whom he had come to serve. We believe that those who we identify as saints are part of the kingdom of heaven right now, forever in the presence of God, surrounded by love, mercy, and goodness. We may make our prayers through the intercession of the saints, trusting that they are with God, who stands ready to shower us with that love, mercy, and goodness.

- In today's second reading, John writes that, "we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). Later in this letter, he writes "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16). Since we regard the saints as dwelling in the kingdom of God in the presence of God, able to see God face to face, John would say that the saints are like God. Because God is love, the saints are as well. Indeed, with their lives the saints have given us real-world examples of God's love. When we pray through the intercession of a saint, we are not only recognizing the unconditional love of God they manifested here on earth, but also the pure love that permeates their entire being in heaven.

Question of the Week

How can I show the unconditional love of a saint in a way that I have been reluctant to in the past?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Joined in communion with the saints, we give voice to our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters, saints and sinners alike, for we are all graced by God.

- For the Church, that we may serve the Lord by raising up the poor in spirit, comforting the grieving, providing for the meek, and extending the blessings of all the Beatitudes as a sign of the kingdom breaking into the world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- That leaders of nations around the world renounce and condemn the persecution of anyone for their religious beliefs, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who battle for justice, those who struggle for peace, and those who labor for righteousness and truth, that they may see their efforts bear fruit, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who will suffer from the colder weather—those who are homeless, those who cannot afford adequate heat, those who work outside in any weather—that they may be kept safe and warm, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- That by word and action our community of faith may reveal and extend the love the Father has bestowed on us all that we may be called God's children, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving and forgiving God, salvation comes from you and from the Lamb. May we give glory and praise to you forever and ever, for you answer our prayers and grant us our dearest needs through the intercession of all the saints who have joined you in your heavenly kingdom and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 176
Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:
The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:
As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints, we implore your grace, so that, coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of you love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Concluding Rite:
Final Blessing:
May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: We Are the Light of the World, #188