Suggested Opening Song: Christ Be Our Light, #145

Not only on the first two days of this month do we honor the saints and commemorate the faithful departed on the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, but during the entire month of November we remember those who have departed from this world. Today we hear Saint Paul write that if we believe in the resurrection of our Lord, surely God, through Jesus, will bring all those who died in Christ to the heavenly kingdom as well. May that be our hope and our consolation as we cherish our memories of our loved ones.

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 and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.

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. 124
A reading from the Book of Wisdom *Wisdom 6:12-16*

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 62: 2, 3,-4, 5-6, 7-8*

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.
R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines
and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **R/.**

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. **R/.**

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

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

Gospel *Matthew 25:1-13*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew **Glory to you, Lord**

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Reflection on the Word:

- During this time of year, with the encroaching darkness of winter approaching, one can easily imagine how important oil lamps were in the days before electricity. All of the wedding attendants may have been prepared at first, but when the bridegroom became so long delayed that they all fell asleep, half had found themselves in the dark. When Matthew wrote his Gospel, forty years or more after the Resurrection, early Christians saw the second coming as long delayed as well. In fact, reading between the lines of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, it appears he was trying to address their waning hope that those who had already died would be remembered in the resurrection. We cannot know the day nor the hour; all we can do is be prepared always.

- How do we prepare? We live our lives as Jesus taught us. We love God and love our neighbor. We strive to see Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters. We serve them in their need, realizing we are serving the Lord. We repent of our sins, realizing the kingdom is at hand. We give what we have to the poor and follow Jesus. We proclaim the gospel through our words and actions. We receive the Lord in the Eucharist, who nourishes us and sustains us on our journey. We remain steadfast in our faith and our hope that we will be found worthy of entering the kingdom.

- "Receive the light of Christ." We may not remember it, but when we were baptized the priest or deacon said these words as a candle was presented to the parents and godparents. This was a symbol that the newly-baptized member of the Church would always walk in the light of Christ. This candle was to be kept burning, figuratively, in our hearts all our lives. In order to sustain that flame, in order to keep our candles lit as the wise virgins kept their lamps lit, we need fuel. May our participation in the Sunday Eucharist provide us fuel for our faith.

Question of the Week

What can I do this week to further prepare for the coming of the kingdom?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Trusting in God, whose providence can be found by all who seek it, we lift up our needs and the needs of our sisters and brothers in prayer.

- For the Church, that through worship, prayer, and works of charity, we may prepare ourselves for the coming reign of God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- That the world may recognize the value of wisdom and may make itself worthy to receive it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all those who are never invited to a feast, that they may be well fed nevertheless, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For victims of injustice, especially those wrongly convicted or unjustly persecuted, that they may not lose hope despite the suffering they must endure while imprisoned, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those grieving the loss of a child, that they may be consoled, 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.**

God of all consolation, our souls thirst for you. Heal our broken hearts and our broken world as you grant the prayers we make according to your divine will, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever.

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:
Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered.

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: Canticle of the Turning, #235