

All Saints

November 1, 2020

Meeting ID 715 310 766

Password 014954

Prelude Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major

Opening Hymn *For all the saints who from their labors rest*

Celebrant Blessed by God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier
People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

God be with you
People And also with you

Celebrant Let us pray

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that

we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Lessons

A Reading from the Epistles of the Early Church

Revelation 7: 2 - 4, 9 - 17

I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to damage earth and sea, saying, 'Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads.'

And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the people of Israel:

After this I, John, 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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 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, singing,

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

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that 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.

"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.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
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."

The Reader may say

Use me, O Lord, for the work you have me do.

People: And taking me, help me not to resist you.

The Psalm *Taste and see* (Hymn adaptation of Psalm 34)

The Holy Gospel

Then the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (5: 1 - 12)

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, Assisting Bishop of Maryland

Sermon Hymn *For all the saints who've shown your love*

The Prayers of the People

Inspired by the Spirit, we offer our prayers to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the ministers of the church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Eugene and Robert our Bishops, Ken and Lisa, our clergy, Betsy, our clergy emeritus. Kip, Patrick, Deb, Tom and Barbara, our wardens, Steve, our treasurer; for our vestry and other mission leaders, and for those who serve the Gospel at Advent, Baltimore; the Cathedral, Baltimore; and, Church on the Square, Canton; and, for Spencer E. Hatcher, Nancy H. Hennessey, and Amy Slaughter Myers *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For every member of the human family, that we be guided to all truth by the Spirit of truth *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the stewards of the earth, and for the renewed witness to the gospel among people serving in positions of public trust, especially for Donald, President of the United States, Larry, Governor of the State of Maryland, and those who serve us in County and State; that all accept creation as a wondrous gift, and work to preserve its beauty, and the dignity and respect of all creatures great and small *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all the sick and suffering, the lonely and the dying, especially all others we raise before you...

(Members are encouraged to pray silently or aloud for those known and unknown to our community. When all petitions have been offered, and a period of silence has been kept, the leader continues...)

That their affliction lead to endurance, their endurance to virtue, and their virtue to hope *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have died, especially Joan Bradley and Walter Simmons+, and for those who mourn them *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who are in any way affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Comfort and sustain those who have been stricken; relieve their pain and restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength. Grant to all in authority the courage to make wise decisions that are essential for the common good and strengthen them to lead institutions that care for those whom they serve. Watch over all first responders and those in the medical professions whose duty it is to care for the sick; guard them from all danger, and keep them safe in the knowledge that is through their sacrifice and service that the health of the whole community is promoted, *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have suffered at the hands of hurricane or wildfire' for those who have died, those who have been injured, those who have been displaced, those who have lost everything, those who bring relief, and those who risk their lives to mitigate the impact of these natural disasters *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence. We remember our Black brothers and sisters, beloved children of God, groaning under the weight of redlining, segregation, underfunded schools, unequal economic opportunity, indignity, and ever-present fear. We pray for those who protest, for those whose lives have been disrupted, for those whose property have been damaged and for those who seek to maintain order and safety, beloved children of God. We remember our public officials, beloved children of God, managing a global pandemic and the grief and anger in our communities. We remember our police officers, beloved children of God, whom we ask, often without appropriate training, to respond to human beings in their worst and most vulnerable moments and who feel their loyalties divided or their cause unclear, and who feel afraid for themselves, their partners, their families, and their fellow citizens. We remember those who have pledged their lives to racist ideologies, beloved children of God. We acknowledge the pain they have caused to victims of violence, to their communities, to their families, and to their own souls. We know that the

sickness of racism is in this nation's very bedrock and we beg your mercy to free all your people from it. Help us turn away from this sin of division and toward your all-encompassing love. *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy.*

For our nation, in this time of uncertainty and crisis. We raise before you our fears, our anxiety, our deepest concerns and our greatest hopes. We pray that you will bring us together in this moment as a people; that we may rise as one to the single purpose of doing all in our power to protect dignity, promote justice, and support the healing and safety and recovery of all our neighbors, near and far, that in committing ourselves to the welfare of the other we may discover that the love that binds us is greater than anything that might separate us. *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy.*

The Celebrant continues

O God, from whom good things flow, we thank you and bless you. Answer our prayers and bring us hope through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives with you in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you
People And also with you

Announcements

Stewardship Minute

The Holy Communion

The Offertory *Children of the world* Perf. By Children of the world

Celebrant: Loving God, in the service of your Kingdom, grant us the peace we may have, show us the peace we should seek.

People: *And give us the strength to do without, especially the peace we must forego for Jesus' sake.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Celebrant and People

Love astounding, love confounding limits fearful minds impose.
Love renewing, love pursuing every heart until it knows
love's transforming, healing goodness, love's abiding, gentle grace,
love's endurance, love's assurance, love's consoling, strong embrace.

Love receiving, love believing, we rejoice with thanks and song,
faith regaining, hope proclaiming; love has taught us, we belong
safe within love's tender keeping, safe from fear's persistent call.
Love defending, love unending, love of God enfolding all.

Then the Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

The Celebrant continues

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People and Celebrant

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. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We are one people; one body in Christ, for we eat of
one loaf and drink from one cup.

People: Thank you, gracious God, for the food that makes us one with
you, and one with each other

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

Benediction

Closing Hymn *I sing a song of the saints of God*

Dismissal

Postlude *O, when the saints go marchin' in*

*Our weekly **stewardship message** is printed on the next page... (So keep reading!!)*

All Saints Day

Lives shaped by The Beatitudes

BY MARY MACGREGOR



Today's Gospel recalls Jesus' sermon on the mount, commonly referred to as The Beatitudes. In his usual manner, Jesus surprised his followers by uttering godly, countercultural truth. In essence, his teaching that day laid the foundation for what it means to live a Christian life.

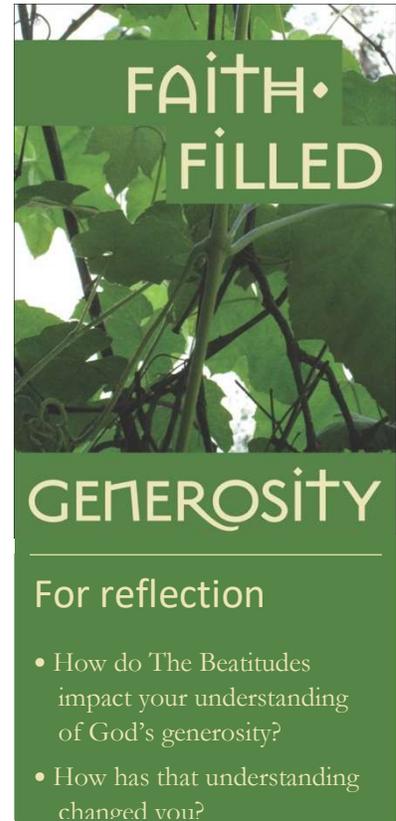
What does it mean to be merciful, pure in heart, meek, poor in spirit, mournful, to be a peacemaker, to hunger and thirst for righteousness and be willing to be persecuted for it? The Beatitudes are a guide that, when studied, reveal layers of meaning for us as believers. They challenge many of our basic human desires and behaviors. Of ultimate importance, they clearly reveal what God seeks to bless.

Aren't we fortunate that our God is forgiving and full of grace as we strive to be transformed by these teachings? Our journey of formation requires change and opening our eyes to see God in action all around us. Included in this change is seeing God's endless blessings poured out upon us and developing a posture of gratitude in return.

Being thankful changes us for the better. Being thankful changes our perspective on life and can profoundly impact our understanding of God's generosity. Being thankful can shape us to be stewards of all God has entrusted to us. Being thankful softens our fears. Being thankful turns fear of scarcity into joyful gratitude for God's abundance.

We remember the saints who have gone before us on this All Saints Day. Some were revered as saints of old. Some were modern day saints. Some were simple folks like you and me. One distinguishing characteristic of saints is that we can see how they embodied and lived Jesus' teachings, these very Beatitudes. They generously gave of their lives so much so that we remember them today. We are confident they were blessed by God for their faithfulness. May we be thankful for their witness and see in them lives shaped by The Beatitudes and be willing to do the same.

Canon Mary MacGregor is a member of the board of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. She has been deeply involved in congregational development for over 25 years, and served as Canon for Congregational Vitality and Mission Amplification for the Diocese of Texas.



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