



Holy Communion Service 1st November 2020

All Saints' Day

Service with Bishop Trevor Musonda Mwamba

Personal preparation before the service begins.
Please take time to remember where you are,
and why you are here.
Give thanks and become still
in the presence of God

Prelude

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

SoF 109 For All The Saints

1. For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who to the world their Lord by faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
all yours, all joined in unity divine.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

8. From earth's wide bounds and ocean's farthest shore,
through heaven's gates the holy people pour;
the Three in One for ever they adore.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

CCLI Song # 2645678
William Walsham How
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**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The reading is taken from Revelation 7:9-17

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open

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. 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 worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever 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 centre 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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading is taken from Matthew 5:1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Today we celebrate All Saints' Day.

Someone once defined a saint as a person whose life has not been properly researched!

The wonderful passage in Revelations tells us that a great multitude, which no-one could count, of all nations, and tribes, and peoples, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, and cried with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

The amazing thing about this passage is that all these people are saints made up of people of all nations, of all faiths, whose number is as huge as God's love is unlimited.

We think saints are those extraordinary men and women of virtue who never had nasty thoughts or did dodgy things in their lives; whose lives and works have transformed the world. And have a day in the church calendars, and special prayers written about them, and churches named after them, and have finished up in stained glass windows.

Whilst we ordinary people find ourselves in the 'could-do-better' category.

Let me disappoint you saints are not paragons of virtue! As St Paul confessed to Timothy, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst." (1Timothy 1:15)

Saints are like us with feet of clay; who have stumbled and fallen, made mistakes, had doubts, and fears, and prejudices, and weaknesses, and been cantankerous.

We need to look at sainthood differently. What makes a saint? Think of our lives as the story of God within us; as God being on our side. Our lives is where God chooses to be. God places himself or herself in our hearts as a gift.

St Paul said: "...we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (2 Corinthians 4:7).

This treasure, God in us, is eloquently described in a poem What Matters, by Fr Thomas Keating an American Catholic monk and priest.

Only the Divine matters,
And because the Divine matters,
Everything matters.

We matter as the Divine is in us. Accordingly as Cynthia Bourgeault said, "our actions, our choices, our connections bear more weight than we dare to believe." We are all important parts of a great web of belonging in which divine intelligence and compassion are always at our disposal if our courage does not fail us.

President Mandela once said, 'that a saint is a sinner who keeps on trying.'

Trying what we may ask? I think it's to be authentic, honest to ones self, honest to ones imperfections too. To be authentic is to incline to live to the best in us that makes life meaningful and good, for ourselves and other people too. This is what Madiba was alluding to.

Think on this story of a group of compassionate and gifted doctors. None is religious or Christian. Every year they pool a third of their salaries to buy medical supplies. They then pick a country to assist and go there volunteering their professional skills by performing surgeries and other medical services needed.

On one such mission a patient on whom an operation had been performed said with immense gratitude to the doctor - who looked liked a member of the Hells Angels - if he believed in God and the doctor no and the patient responded but: "God is in you"!

That's a saint. Saints are life -givers helping others. Often they are not conscious of it. But their kind acts change the lives of the people they touch for the better.

Those saints the stained-glass window types embraced God's love within them, and kept tried sharing it with others. Sometimes inadvertently like the Hells Angels' doctor they are undercover saints with no religious affiliations. But in their every act of love the patient's words echo: God is in you.

In celebrating all saints we give thanks to God for the lives of men and women and children who authentically lived and live out God's love and are never afraid to do right; to tap on the divine intelligence and compassion always at our disposal to make life better for others.

St Augustine thought of the history of the human family as a vast musical score in which all our wrong notes were transformed by God into a wonderful work of art.

In De Musica he wrote, "Dissonance can be redeemed without being obliterated."

It's as though our relationship with God is like a great symphony that accepts all our errors, our bad notes, our failures, our disgraces, and from which a work of great beauty eventually emerges.

And the victory isn't that God rubs out our wrong notes, our missteps, our failures, or pretends that they never happened, but that God actually finds a place for them in the musical score to redeem them.

This is the way God works with us. We may fail, but we are never failures. God roots for us.

In spite of all our shortcomings and faults, our lack of angelic achievement that might have seen us into a stained glass window, we are saints framed in the hearts of those we have touched.

We are saints because we saw ourselves in them, rejoiced in their joy, and relieved their suffering. We are saints when we seek in our world the path of compassion, justice and peace and equality for all; when we try to heal the damage to creation; when we appreciate the dignity and beauty, and diversity of people because we are all children of Love.

For deep within us Love asks of us to be authentic; to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. (Micah 6:8)

Our life story is that we are saints because God is in you. And all the little good we do in life sends ripples of love throughout creation enriching life.

In celebrating All Saints we remember the many little goods men and women and children over the centuries and in our time have done to make life better for us.

And we rededicate ourselves to doing some daily little good in life to others to unite us with that innumerable multitude which fell before the throne, worshipping God, and saying, "Amen; blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever."

Amen.

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession (by Lauren)

Our Heavenly Father: we thank you today for calling us your saints. In spite of our unholy lives you look at us and see Jesus' perfect life and death covering ours. Thank you for this grace, the grace we received when we believed in you. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Thank you for every Christian who has helped us on our journey and encouraged us to keep believing when we felt like giving up. Thank you for all those who taught us the faith. Thank you for those who made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to ensure others could hear of your love in Christ.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We remember the saints in heaven, thank you for keeping your promises to them. We especially remember those from our community who have passed away. Give comfort to all those who grieve over loved ones no longer with us on earth. Give them the hope only your word can offer us.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our community here in Freiburg. We give thanks for Bishop Trevor and for his time here with us. We pray for this period of interregnum, for the locums who will come to serve our community and for the process of finding a new minister. We pray the same for our sister church in Basel.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are not yet part of your church and for those who have left it, asking your spirit to convince them of your love for them in Jesus. And we pray for the enemies of the church, and those who curse your saints. We pray also for the families of the victims of the recent terrorist acts in France.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those working on the front lines to combat Covid-19, those in health care, those in research, and those in jobs which put them at risk. We pray for those suffering from isolation, from illness, from fear and anxiety. Bring your healing hand, bring peace and comfort to those who have lost loved ones to the virus. Protect the poor and hungry and give them hope and help all people to love their neighbour as themselves.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

At this time we pray especially for Margaret and Brian, who are both undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. We pray for healing and that you would sustain their faith, keeping their spirits up and helping them to trust in your sovereignty.

and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of
sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven,

.....

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The president and people receive communion.
(Songs may be sung during the distribution of communion)

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

ACF 51 Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine

1. Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine,
Christ is with us here.

Chorus

In this bread there is healing,
in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,

Christ is with us here.

2. Here is grace. here is peace,
Christ is with us, He is with us;
know His grace, find His peace,
feast on Jesus here.

Chorus

In this bread there is healing,
in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,
Christ is with us here.

3. Here we are, joined in one.
Christ is with us, He is with us;
we'll proclaim, till He comes,
Jesus crucified.

Chorus

In this bread there is healing,
in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,
Christ is with us here.

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Graham Kendrick
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The Blessing



The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.