

Reflection for All Saints

Readings: *Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12*

All the Readings of today's solemnity refer, in different ways, to the Kingdom of Heaven. St. John's Letter reminds his listeners that they have now, through God's love, become God's children. Even so, the visible, external manifestation of this reality has not yet been revealed. All we know is that, in some way, we will be like God. The reference to 'the world' is to those people who refused to accept Jesus' teaching and example.

The Book of Revelation presents two imaginative visions – the life of the Christian on this earth and the assembly of the Kingdom of Heaven. Those 'marked with the seal' (v.5) on earth, those identified as Christian, appear to be protected by God in the midst of great turbulence. The second vision is of Heaven, with particular emphasis on those wearing white robes, those who 'have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb' (v.14). These are men and women who have become Christian in their earthly lives and have been transformed by remaining firm in 'the time of great distress' (v.14).

St. Matthew's Gospel presents the well-known passage of the beatitudes and Our Lord's clear and paradoxical teaching on the right dispositions towards this life for anyone who aspires to the Kingdom of Heaven. The 'beatitudes' (we may have become too used to the title to appreciate its paradoxical nature) refer to signs and dispositions we would probably consider misfortunate, but that, from a Christian perspective, are reassuring. First of all we are told to be spiritually detached from goods and possessions. We are told to be merciful, just and pure of heart. We are to count suffering as a spiritual blessing. We are to work for peace and justice. Especially, we are to count as a blessing all insults and persecution because of our Christian faith. We are told that our reward in Heaven will be great.

Sharon,

Fr. Stephen

All Saints

Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour
of all the Saints,
at whose festival the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Such are the men who
seek your face, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me, all you who labour and are
overburdened
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they
shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy at your saving
help and exult in the name of our God.