

**Sunday 30 October 2021**

# All Saints' Day



In Poland, as part of a popular tradition, candles are placed on the graves of family members.

**Sermon** © the Revd Robin Wilding.

**Liturgy and prayers of intercession** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

All the hymns are hosted on YouTube. Please click on the links to hear them.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1** [For all the saints](#)  
[For all the saints](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)  
(instrumental version)

## The Welcome

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

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

## The Preparation

**All 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.’

And 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.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;  
its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil distortions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,

and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for all his children.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

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.

**All** Amen.

## **The Gloria**

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All** Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

### **The Collect for All Saints' Day**

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.

**All Amen.**

### **First reading**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

Daniel said: 'In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

'I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.

'So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: "The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. But the holy people of the Most

High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever”.’

*Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

*Ephesians 1:11–end*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 [Christ’s is the world \(a touching place\)](#) ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))**

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

Looking at his disciples, [Jesus] said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who hunger now,

for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,

when they exclude you and insult you

and reject your name as evil,

because of the Son of Man.

'Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,

for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now,

for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,

for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,

for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

'But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. *Luke 6:20-31*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

'We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all the saints' (Colossians 1:4).

Paul writes to a church he has never visited but has heard great things of them. And this odd word 'saint' appears—who on earth are they and what can it mean for us now, today.

Let's start out with the superhero saints the ones given the title, the special ones. Is Paul speaking of them—no for there are no such people at this time—there are the apostles and already the martyrs but no particular focus on them.

Are any of you superhero movie fans—*Avengers* or *Justice League*? So often these films and stories are riddled with exceptional, empowered, otherworldly types who turn up to rescue the world from catastrophe. Just occasionally there are the ordinary trained individuals who can match them and sometimes out do them but they are the rarity. And we can see the same in the named saints—these are the exceptionals, the ones who achieve somehow great things in their lives, win great battles intellectually and spiritually and change the world somehow.

Where is there room for me in my littleness and insignificance? The danger for the superhero movie is that there is no room for the ordinary and we should always be aware of Jesus' terrible challenge that turns the world upside down as in our gospel reading today. The church is the place where the powerless are the heroes, where the little is honoured, where the powerful and the comfortable are seen as having received all their blessing leaving the rest of us to take what God offers. As Stuart Townend puts it in one of our hymns today 'Not to the powerful but to the poor he came and hungry humble hearts were satisfied again.'

So what about us Unexceptionals? Well we are the saints Paul is talking about—it is his shorthand for the church, the people of God. Hurrah for all the specials have achieved for God but three cheers too for what each and everyone of us means to the Kingdom of God. Us ordinary, struggling, relatively ungifted, insignificant ones are actually lifted, redeemed, renewed, restored by God and by His choice become his people, his family, his friends, known and loved by God. Held in the Father's arms and valued, given a place at his table.

What that actually means is that in Kingdom terms you and what you do is valued, known, necessary and as we offer what we have and what we are to Father God then the Kingdom advances.

Worldwide the church of God has grown extraordinarily over the last 150 years. At the front line of that have been the sacrifices of many who went out from our shores and lived and died sharing Christ with the world. And I could tell you some little-known stories of some of them—the price they paid is humbling. But they could only do that because of the commitment of many to support and pray and give that they might succeed. Behind any front-line battle success and failure may rest not on the fighters but on the logistics, the supply line the many behind each one.

And beyond that we are each called in our lives to be that 'touching place' from another of our hymns today—the hands and the feet and the voice of Jesus that meet and hold and love those who cross our paths. And because we are known and loved and filled by God, he meets us there through us lives are met by Him!

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of intercession

United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom,  
let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord,  
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,  
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation  
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Bless our bishop and all ministers of your Church,  
that by faithful proclamation of your word  
we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets  
into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**



Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ  
from glory to glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Give to the world and its peoples  
the peace that comes from above,  
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the  
service of the poor and needy;  
all who minister to the sick and dying;  
and all who bring light to those in darkness.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin  
or disfigured by pain,  
that, raised from death to life in Christ,  
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us  
who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity;  
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,  
guide us to your kingdom  
and grant us your peace at all times.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

Hasten the day when many will come  
from east and west, from north and south,  
and sit at table in your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory,  
with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;  
by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

**All** Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour and power,  
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Merciful Father,

**All** accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## The peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:  
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness  
that you may be blameless before him  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All** And also with you.

**HYMN 3** [Love each other](#)

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## The Dismissal

May God,  
who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace.  
May he give you joy in their fellowship  
and a share in their praises.  
May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness  
and to come to the full radiance of glory.  
And the blessing of God the Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

**HYMN 4** [There is a higher throne](#)

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** In the name of Christ. Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy  
that we should always sing of your glory,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,  
the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost,  
restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,  
flooding lives with goodness and truth,  
gathering into one in your kingdom  
a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore, with all who can give voice in your creation  
we glorify your name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:  
may we who have shared at this table  
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth  
be welcomed with all your saints  
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen

**All** 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.