

# ALL SAINTS DAY

1 November 2020

*Stand*      **The COLLECT of the DAY**

*Priest:*      God be with you.

*People:*      **And also with you.**

*Priest:*      Let us pray.    *silence is kept.*

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## The SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION

*Priest:* 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.**

ORGAN PRELUDE

*“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”*

J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS & THANKSGIVINGS

## The WORD of GOD

### ACCLAMATION

*Priest*      Blessed be the ☩ God of our salvation;

*People*      **Now and for ever. Amen.**

*Sit*      **The LESSON**

*Sirach 44: 1-14*

### CONFESSION of SIN

<sup>1</sup> Let us now sing the praises of famous men and women, our ancestors in their generations. <sup>2</sup> The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. <sup>3</sup> There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and made a name for themselves by their valor; those who gave counsel because they were intelligent; those who spoke in prophetic oracles; <sup>4</sup> those who led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the people’s lore; they were wise in their words of instruction; <sup>5</sup> those who composed musical tunes, or put verses in writing; <sup>6</sup> rich people endowed with resources, living peacefully in their homes-- <sup>7</sup> all these were honored in their generations, and were the pride of their times. <sup>8</sup> Some of them have left behind a name, so that others declare their praise.

*Priest:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence for private reflection is kept.*

*(Kneel)*

Most merciful God,

*All:*      **we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

<sup>9</sup> But of others there is no memory; they have perished as though they had never existed; they have become as though they had never been born, they and their children after them. <sup>10</sup> But these also were godly men and women, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten; <sup>11</sup> their wealth will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance with their children’s children. <sup>12</sup> Their descendants stand by the covenants; their children also, for their sake. <sup>13</sup> Their offspring will continue forever, and their glory will never be blotted out. <sup>14</sup> Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on generation after generation.

*The priest offers absolution.*

The Word of God.

*People:*      **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**      **Psalm 119: 1-8**      *read responsively, observing the verse*

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose way is | blameless, \*  
who walk in the law | of the Lord!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they who observe | his decrees \*  
and seek him with | all their hearts!**
- <sup>3</sup> Who never do | any wrong, \*  
but always walk | in his ways.
- <sup>4</sup> **You laid down your com-|mandments, \*  
that we should | fully keep | them.**
- <sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were made | so direct \*  
that I might | keep your statutes!
- <sup>6</sup> **Then I should not be | put to shame, \*  
when I regard all | your commandments.**
- <sup>7</sup> I will thank you with an |un-feigned heart, \*  
when I have learned your | right-eous judgments.
- <sup>8</sup> **I will keep your | statutes; \*  
do not ut-ter-|ly forsake me.**

**EPISTLE READING**

*Revelation 7: 9-17*

<sup>9</sup> I looked, and there was an enormous crowd - no one could count all the people! They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood in front of the throne and of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They called out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. Then they threw themselves face downward in front of the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!" <sup>13</sup> One of the elders asked me, "Who are these people dressed in white robes, and where do they come from?" <sup>14</sup> "I don't know, sir. You do," I answered. He said to me, "These are the people who have come safely through the terrible persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> That is why they stand before God's throne and serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will protect them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup> Never again will they hunger or thirst; neither sun nor any scorching heat will burn them, <sup>17</sup> because the Lamb, who is in the center of the throne, will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of God.

*People:*      **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*"Ave verum corpus"*

W. A. Mozart

*Stand*      **The HOLY GOSPEL** of our Savior Jesus Christ  
**Glory to you, O Christ.**

*Matthew 5: 1-12*

✚ <sup>1</sup> Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them: <sup>3</sup> "Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! <sup>4</sup> "Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them! <sup>5</sup> "Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised! <sup>6</sup> "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully! <sup>7</sup> "Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them! <sup>8</sup> "Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God! <sup>9</sup> "Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children! <sup>10</sup> "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! <sup>11</sup> "Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.

The Gospel of Christ.

*People:*      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*      **MEDITATION**

*Father Erb*

*Stand*      **The NICENE CREED**

*Officiant:* We believe in one God,

*All:*      **the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again 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.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The READING of the NECROLOGY**

*The names of the deceased are read.*

May the souls of the faithful departed, ☩ by the mercy of God, rest in peace.

*Stand* **PASSING of CHRIST'S PEACE**

*Priest:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

**THE CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION**

*Celebrant:* God be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

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

*The Celebrant continues*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blest is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues.*

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

*All:* **We praise you; we bless you; we give thanks to you;  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

**The LORD'S PRAYER** (*traditional, using 'trespasses'*)

**FRACTION ANTHEM**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy upon us.  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us your peace.**

**COMMUNION of the PEOPLE**

*Stand* **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God,

*All:* **we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the  
spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus  
Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet.**

**Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and  
a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death,  
neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**BLESSING and DISMISSAL**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY - "Zooming" through the Bible" has moved to Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. Join us one day, or each week as your schedule allows. This week we continue with the book of Job in the Old Testament. How does a person of faith deal with calamity? A Zoom invitation is sent to the Parish e-list each week.

ALL SAINTS - Today we commemorate All the Saints who have gone before us into God's Glory. A Book of Remembrance for names you wish us to share is in the back of the Church.

PLANNING FOR THE END OF LIFE - Booklets from the Church Pension Group provide helpful information including Advance Directives, Wills, and Funeral Wishes. Copies are available in the back of the Church. Include your loved ones in your planning so they know what you wish and don't want - like what hymns you want sung at your funeral!

IN MEMORIA - The annual Hallowe'en Organ Concert will be transformed into a 'service' for the now 230 Thousand who have died in the US due to Covid-19. Two 'halves' of the program (with an 'intermission') will be broadcast just like our Virtual Grace services are, for listening at any time. Due to continuing problems with "Mabel" our beloved pipe organ, Fr. Ed will be playing his personal electronic organ from the Rectory den. Hymns and prayers will be offered to commemorate "All the Saints" who have died this year.

## A COLLECT for AN ELECTION

BCP p.822

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of a President, Justices, officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

*For those who need God's comfort and care:* Richelle Stephens; Addison; George Varites; Rob O'Connor; Zach Wyckoff; Harold Krieger; John Mountjoy.

*For those celebrating birthdays this week:* Nancy Kuzminski - *Are we missing anyone?*

## The NECROLOGY

Ed Coggins  
Bill and Eleanor Wendland  
Theabara, Leo and Thelma  
Paul Hopkins  
Gus and Mark Leunes  
Glenda Todd  
Lorraine Russo  
Ron Bock

Jim O'Neill  
Danny O'Neill  
Thomas, Delia, and Raymond Varley  
Sigmund and Sophia Zawacki  
Bruce Backer  
John Jingo  
Mary Fleming  
Charles and Carmen O'Connor  
Catherine Evans

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## Grace Episcopal Church

827 Church Street  
Honesdale, Pennsylvania

The Rev'd Edward K. Erb, *rector*

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GRACE CHURCH  
ALL SAINTS DAY

Honesdale, PA  
1 November 2020

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ben Sirach 44: 1-14  
Psalm 119: 1-8  
Revelation 7: 1-7  
Matthew 5: 1-12

*GOD'S INVERTED WORLD*

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Have you ever noticed that God turns things upside down?  
Like inverting the Chaos before Creation into the Order of the Universe.  
Like coming to humanity in the form of Jesus.  
Like Jesus' beginning his ministry with the Beatitudes.  
The Beatitudes.  
One of the most confusing speeches of Jesus  
    early on in his ministry - like the opening trial sermon  
    just days after his Baptism by John and his Temptation by Satan.  
He returns to Galilee, calls four fishermen off the Lake,  
    and begins teaching and healing,  
    and on a Sunday afternoon, preaches to the picnickers on the hillside.  
"Blessed are you poor.  
Blessed are you who have lost loved ones.  
    Blessed are you who are hungry for justice.  
    Blessed are you who march the streets for peace.  
Blessed are you who are persecuted, arrested, jailed  
    in the cause of righteousness.

Pastor Layton Williams notes that the Beatitudes are a reminder  
    that the world as we have generally encountered it  
    is not at all the world that God intends or desires for us.

From the very beginning, Jesus challenges our perceptions of blessing.  
"Who are these?" the Archangel asks John (or is it Jesus who is asking?)  
"I don't know them," John replies.  
"These are the blessed who have come through great trials and pains."  
"But how can that be?" John ponders.  
"These are the Saints who have inspired others to do good work."  
"With their suffering and death?" John is, like us, confused  
    "How can that be?"

Today we commemorate those who are blessed - in God's eyes -  
    the saints who have lived through this tribulation, this struggle of life.  
And Jesus tells us who are the blessed -  
    words that smack against our sensibility,  
    our human understanding, mortal and limited as it is.  
The poor are blessed?  
    You who mourn, do you feel blessed?  
    You who are persecuted for doing the work of Christ in these days?  
Are you blessed?

I think of first-responders, teachers, health-care workers,  
church members handing out food and personal hygiene supplies  
and many others who have come in contact with the virus,  
tested positive, and many who have died.

Are they blessed?

It is a hard question we in the Church must ask,  
we as faithful people who are charged to live the words of Jesus.

The poor, the sick, the dying, those in prison,  
the elderly, widows and widowers, those who mourn loved ones lost.

Are they blessed?

Or are they instead a blessing?

God's world inverted again.

Bill and Melinda Gates are certainly not poor -  
two of the richest people in the world - in many ways.

23 years ago, the co-founder of Microsoft took a tour in India  
and saw the need the dying had for polio vaccines.

And Bill's heart was changed from being a high-power profiteer  
to establish a major charitable foundation.

Over the years the Gates Foundation has fought polio, malaria, malnutrition,  
and they worked with friend Warren Buffett  
who doubled the foundation's resources to provide for the poor.

A blessing is those poor,  
for they taught and can teach the rich, the privileged.  
This is just one example of how those who have suffered can turn the heart  
of those who might close their eyes to injustice and pain,  
inverting our world by God's love.

Pastor Layton Williams asks us,

Do we care enough about those who have died in this pandemic  
to mourn them?  
Will we care mercifully for those who are being hurt by this situation,  
whether in terms of health or finances or safety?  
Will we let ourselves feel the pangs of hunger  
at the persistence of unrighteousness?  
Will we do the hard work of making real and holy peace?

*The Christian Century, Oct. 21, 2020, p.22*

Can we feel blessed,  
and will we become a blessing?  
Let us help God overturn this world.  
AMEN.