

## ALL SAINTS DAY

November 1

Solemnity

Year A-B-C

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

*Citation: Revelation, Chap. 7, Verses 2-4, 9-14*

*Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14*

**St. John's attempt to portray Heaven after Christ's Second Coming. It is an awesome, majestic sight. There is uncertainty in John's voice as he attempts to understand what is going on. There are three speakers – an angel, John, and the elder. Change your tone for each voice. Take your time so that listeners can paint a clear picture of what they are meant to "see".**

### A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John,  
saw another angel come up from the East,  
holding the seal of the living God. (very short pause)

He cried out in a loud voice  
to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea,

"Do not damage the land or the sea (volume goes up)  
or the trees "  
until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." (very short pause)

I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, (normal volume)  
one hundred and forty-four thousand marked (amazement!)  
from every tribe of the Israelites. (very short pause)

After this I had a vision of a great multitude,  
which no one could count, (almost parenthetical)  
from every nation, race, people,  
and tongue.

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,  
wearing white robes  
and holding palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice:  
"Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, (volume goes up)  
and from the Lamb." (very short pause)

All the angels stood around the throne  
and around the elders and the four living creatures. (very short pause)

They prostrated themselves before the throne,  
worshiped God, and exclaimed:

"Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, (volume up a bit; pride!)  
honor, power, and might

be to our God  
forever and ever.

Amen." (very short pause)

**Proclamation Format**

Then one of the elders spoke up  
and said to me,  
"Who are these wearing white robes,  
and where did they come from?"

(questioning tone)  
“

I said to him,  
"My lord, you are the one who knows."

He said to me,  
"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;  
they have washed their robes  
and made them white  
in the blood of the Lamb."

(upbeat a little)  
(slowly wind down to the end)

**The word of the Lord.**

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2nd Reading

*Citation: John, Chap. 3, Verses 1-3*

*John 3: 1-3*

John is trying to drive home the realization that his disciples are united with Christ as God's children at this very moment, not some time in the future. As to our bodies they will become like that of Christ's glorified body at some time in the future. Further, the "proof" of our unity with Christ is reflected in how we behave as followers of Christ. Be the insistent St John!

### A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us

that we may be called

the children of God.

(very short pause)

Yet so we are.

(firm; assertive)

The reason the world does not know us

is that it did not know him.

(very short pause)

Beloved,

(very insistent & confident to the end)

we are God's children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

(voice goes down slightly)

We do know that when it is revealed

we shall be like him,

for we shall see him as he is.

Everyone who has this hope

based on him

makes himself pure,

as he is pure.

**The word of the Lord.**

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GOSPEL

*Citation: Matthew, Chap. 5, Verses 1-12a*  
*Matthew 5: 1-12a*

**Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. Take your time; this is powerful and full of meaning at multiple levels. The "lists" of beatitudes can bore listeners when you fail to present it with understanding and significance for your own life. Jesus was convinced He was preaching Truthfulness. Be Jesus! gentle, yet firm, convinced and confident.**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds,  
he went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down,  
his disciples came to him.

(telling the story)

He began to teach them, saying:

(slight change to tone; advisory)

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

(This is a long list; use variety of tone,  
pace, volume, and word stress. Take  
your time!)

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

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

(separate "hunger" and "thirst")

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.

(separate each word; slow)

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

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you  
falsely  
because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**