



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION  
SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024 – ALL SAINTS**

**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. Amen.

**Psalm 24.1-6**

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, ♦  
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas ♦  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, ♦  
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, ♦  
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,  
nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, ♦  
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, ♦  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

## **A reading from the book of Isaiah, Chapter 25, verses 6-9.**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:***

The second reading is from John, chapter 11, verses 32-44.

***and then at the end:***

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

***For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel. Everywhere except Fitz introduces it with an Acclamation (the blue bit), and then we all use the introduction and ending (the green bit):***

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

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

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, Chapter 11, verses 32-44.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

***And then at the end:***

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **John 11.32-44**

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

### *A Reflection from Hannah...*

Have you ever had one of those 'Ghosts of Christmas past' experiences- where you see lots of people from a world you no longer inhabit, all at once?! I had just such a moment a couple of weeks ago at a conference. It was a conference for a Christian organisation called *ReSource* (it used to be known as *Anglican Renewal Ministries*). At the conference was someone who had known me since I was seven years old (and had been my Sunday School teacher), as well as two of my former vicars. On the second day, when I turned round to head back to my seat after receiving communion, I came face-to-face with my tutor from Theological College! It was a deeply humbling thing to be reminded of those great saints who helped me along the path of faith, and who each have a special place in my story.

On this feast of All Saints the invitation is there for each of us to look back with gratitude and remember those who have loved us, taught us, prayed for us and formed us into the people we are today. But it's more than that- it's also a chance to recall the cloud of witnesses who cheer us on, and who are comprised of names we know, and names we don't. Still more than that, we can do so with utter confidence in God who gathers all things to Godself, and in whom nothing good is lost.

The raising of Lazarus is a story that ends in life- what was thought dead and lost, turned out to be anything but. What Jesus did that day for a family friend, by his death and resurrection he does for us all. In God's power and in God's love, all of us- living and departed- are re-remembered and free-free to enjoy the abundance of the feast, in a place where there is no such thing as tears or longing, but only joy.

So on this feast we give thanks for one another over the whole arc of history, and we pray for one another as we journey onwards in faith.