

# THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

LECTIONARY #668

READING I Isaiah 25:6, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts

will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy

the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;

he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away

the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove

from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!  
This is the LORD for whom we looked,  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

Isaiah = I-ZAY-uh

Notice the inclusivity of the Lord's providence.

Imagine the Lord wiping the tears from all the broken-hearted. Read slowly and tenderly; someone in the assembly might need to hear this message of God's love and care.

Use the exclamation mark! Raise your voice, smile, and show joy, don't just read joy.

There are options for today's readings. Contact your parish staff to learn which readings will be used.

## READING I

This reading from Isaiah points towards the opening of salvation to all humanity. During the end of days, God will remove the veil from everyone's eyes that they might clearly see by his salvific action on behalf of humanity. Additionally, all the nations will witness God's power when he overcomes death.

Though not described in today's reading, Isaiah prophesies the destruction of the kingdom of Judah if the people, especially the king, do not mend their ways and turn to God. The people will lose all they have as they are sent into exile. Yet mixed with the prediction of doom and gloom, there are passages like today's reading, in which Isaiah also declares God's intent to restore them and reveal himself as the God of all the nations, not just the God of Israel. Thus, in the midst of suffering and death, God comforts them and there remains the hope of salvation, a reason for rejoicing.

As we commemorate the souls of the faithful departed, we too receive this prophecy of comfort and hope. While loved ones have passed away and left us with grief and sorrow in our hearts, we also rejoice in knowing that Christ has already conquered death. Thus, we can rest assured that God wipes away our tears and comforts us by assuring us of his continued providence over all of humanity, both the living and the dead.

For meditation and context:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
 or  
 R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.  
 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
 In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
 beside restful waters he leads me;  
 he refreshes my soul.  
 He guides me in right paths  
 for his name's sake.  
 Even though I walk in the dark valley  
 I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
 with your rod and your staff  
 that give me courage.

You spread the table before me  
 in the sight of my foes;  
 you anoint my head with oil;  
 my cup overflows.  
 Only goodness and kindness follow me  
 all the days of my life;  
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
 for years to come.

READING II 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,  
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the dead will be raised **incorruptible**,  
and we shall be **changed**.

For that which is **corruptible must clothe itself with**

**incorruptibility**,

and that which is **mortal must clothe itself with immortality**.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with

incorruptibility

and this which is mortal clothes itself with **immortality**,

then the word that is written shall **come** about:

**Death is swallowed up in victory.**

**Where, O death, is your victory?**

**Where, O death, is your sting?**

Corinthians = kohr-in-three-uhnz

Notice the opposites: corruptible/  
incorruptible and mortal/immortality.

Pause after "come about," before reading  
the quotations.

Use a confident upward inflection for the  
answers! Pause to let the assembly consider  
the question.

READING II

In this passage from the  
first letter to the Corin-

thians, Paul addresses the concerns of the

community regarding who will benefit from

the resurrection at the end of time. Paul

stresses that *everyone* who believes in

Christ benefits from the resurrection. He

states that "the dead will be raised incor-

ruptible" and the "corruptible," that is, the

living, will also clothe themselves with

incorruptibility. Both the living and the dead

are transformed through the resurrection  
of Christ. It is through their faith and their

baptism in the Lord that Christians pass

from death into life.

Paul also presents here the resurrec-

tion of Christ as fulfillment of a compilation

of Old Testament passages. The first line,

"Death is swallowed up in victory," para-

phrases a verse from today's first reading

from Isaiah: "he will destroy death forever,"

The rest of the quote comes from Hosea

13:14, although Paul seems to interpret this

verse as portraying God's redemptive

actions on Israel's behalf.

Paul makes a further theological con-

nection between death and sin using a sub-

tle metaphor, where sin is the deadly sting

of a scorpion. For Paul, sin leads to death.

The perhaps confusing relation between law

and the power of sin seems to point toward

sin being even more deadly when you know

you are going against the law of God.

However, sin and death no longer hold

sway over us thanks to Jesus' defeat of

them by his own death and resurrection. In

a special way today, we rejoice in Christ's

victory over sin and death and the promise

of the resurrection for all, both the living

and the dead.

The sting of death is sin,  
and the power of sin is the law.  
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:  
"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,  
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,  
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will  
but the will of the one who sent me.  
And this is the will of the one who sent me,  
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,  
but that I should raise it on the last day.  
For this is the will of my Father,  
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him  
may have eternal life,  
and I shall raise him up on the last day."

Be inviting in your proclamation. Jesus  
holds nothing back; he came to bring  
us to the Father.  
Notice the two different uses of the  
word "will."

These last lines sum up our belief in the  
saints, and the hope of our future with God.

GOSPEL

Today's Gospel reading comes from the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6. The crowd has just heard that Jesus will remove their hunger and thirst forever, yet Jesus also tells them that he knows that they do not believe in him. Jesus' words in today's Gospel highlight that while the people reject Jesus and his words, he himself does not reject anyone who comes to him. If he were to reject anyone, he would be acting contrary to the Father's will.

Today's Gospel reading is that Jesus Father's will. One commission is that Jesus must not lose anything, or anyone, entrusted to him by the Father. An important theme in John's Gospel is that Jesus does not judge or condemn anyone, rather a person condemns themselves when they reject Jesus. The reason it is considered self-con- demnation is that in rejecting Jesus, they are in actuality rejecting the Father who sent him. Jesus' second commission is to raise from the dead those entrusted to him. This commission reveals the Father's love for humanity. The Father so loves the world that he wants all of humanity to share in the resurrection and in eternal life. In order to partake in this promise, one needs to "see" Jesus and believe in him.

Today we celebrate and rejoice that, through Jesus Christ, God the Father con- tinually extends an invitation for us to accept and reciprocate his love for us. We can accomplish this by rejoicing in the midst of grief, rejoicing that those who have gone before us partake in eternal life and the promise of salvation. M.B.