

# All Saints' Day



*All Saints' Day* is celebrated in honour of all the saints, known and unknown. The day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. The celebration reminds the faithful that there is a prayerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), and the living (the "Church militant").

**First Reading:** (Rev 7:2-14) I, John, saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads." And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel. After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen." Then

one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Ps 23:1-6**

**R. /** Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

**Second Reading:** (1 Jn 3:1-3) See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**Gospel:** (Mt 5:1-12) Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in





spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are

the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

### REFLECTION

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!

John, the visionary saw God's angels in a salvific mission and a multitude in a humble adoration. His believing eyes perceived how privileged we are to be called children of God, and so we are. Jesus the only Son of God, through Whom we are made children, -seeing the crowds, poured out his divine heart to open their eyes to the ways of God. The eyes of Jesus see the heart of man and beyond. The presence of Jesus opens a 'heart speaks to heart' conversation. In the divine pedagogy, the disciple must become a light. Can we see what Jesus sees? **Are our eyes open enough to see what God the Father has given us? Because 'Seeing' is crucial for Christian spirituality, may our prayer always be: "True to my heart's promise, I have eyes only for thee; I long, Lord, for thy presence."** Ps. 26:8. Let us be united with people of all time whose seeing, by means of the simple eye has made them see God's eternal Presence. May the passionate love of God for us gently opens the eyes of our heart and excites our mind to see everyone and everything with the eyes of charity.