



All Souls' Day is the day commemorating all the faithful departed. According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies in a state of lesser (venial) sin will go to purgatory where they expiate for their sins. There is a prayerful spiritual bond between those in purgatory (the "Church suffering"), and the living (the "Church militant").

First Reading: (*Isa 25:6-9*) On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach 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, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Ps 26:1, 4, 7-9, 13-14

R. / The Lord is my light and my help

Second Reading: (*Rom 5:5-11*) Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus

Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

Gospel: (*Mk 15:33-39; 16:1-6*) When the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" When the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; -- it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him.

REFLECTION

Have we ever meditated on our death? Saint Francis de Sales challenges us. Suppose yourself to be on your deathbed, in the last extremity, without the smallest hope of recovery. Consider the uncertainty as to the day of your death. One day your soul will quit this body--will it be in summer or winter? In town or country? By day or by night? Alas, of all these things we know absolutely nothing: all that we do know is that die we shall, and for the most part sooner than we expect. Today we celebrate the Triumph of 'Live and Love' in the company of all souls. It's not death at the spotlight. It's Christ's victory over death and sin. "He has risen, he is not here!" **Love and death are eternally blended together in the Passion of the Saviour. Either to love or to die! To die and to love! To die to all other love to live for the love of Jesus so that we may not die eternally.**