



All Saints Prayer
2009

Opening Hymn:

Come back to me will all your heart.
Don't let fear keep us apart.
Trees do bend, though straight and tall
So must we, to other's call.

*Long have I waited for your coming
Home to me and living deeply our new life.*

The wilderness will lead you
To your heart where I will speak.
Integrity and justice,
With tenderness, you shall know.

*Long have I waited for your coming
Home to me and living deeply our new life.*

You shall sleep secure with peace;
Faithfulness will be your joy.

*Long have I waited for your coming
Home to me and living deeply our new life.*

Call to Prayer:

Leader:

This day in sacred convocation we remember those who gave us life. We remember those who enriched our lives with love and beauty, kindness and compassion, thoughtfulness and understanding. We renew our bonds to those who have gone the way of all the earth. As we reflect upon those whose memory moves us this day, we seek consolation and the strength and the insight born of faith. [May our sadness be mingled with joy as we hope in God's promise of resurrection and final reunion.]

*Jewish Prayer
Adapted by Sacha Ludwig*

All:

Amen.

First Reading:

Observers in the full enjoyment of their bodily senses pity me, but it is because they do not see the golden chamber in my life where I dwell delighted; for, dark as my path may seem to them, I carry a magic light in my heart. Faith, the spiritual strong searchlight, illumines the way, and although sinister doubts lurk in the shadow, I walk unafraid toward the enchanted wood where the foliage is always green, where joy abides, where nightingales nest and sing, and where life and death are one in the Presence of the Lord.

Helen Keller

Psalm: 84: 1-3, 8-9, 11

1. How glorious is your dwelling place, O Loving Creator of the universe!
2. My soul longs, yes, aches for the abode of the Beloved; all that is within me sings for joy to the living Heart Love!
1. Even as the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nesting place, where its young are raised within your majestic creation, You invite us to dwell within your Heart.
2. I would rather be a servant in your dwelling place, than live in riches among those who know not Love.
1. For the Beloved is as radiant as the sun, as strong as a steel shield, and invites each one to come, to partake of the Banquet.
2. O Loving Creator of the universe, blessed are all who put their trust in You!

Second Reading:

With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

Romans 8 1-2, 15-17

Honoring Our Dead:

Leader:

Let us now call to mind those dearest to us who now live the joy of eternal life. Let those who wish to step forward to share a memory or name a person you wish to honor and place a flower before our altar in remembrance.

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader:

Merciful God, You are both the Guardian of Evening and the Lord of Day. While mindful of those who have passed on, we place before You the needs of the living: (The Faithful will respond, "Loving God, hear our prayer.")

(After the leader reads the petitions recommended to Mount Saint Agnes, those present are invited to add their own special intentions.)

Closing Prayer:

Leader:

O great Lover of Souls to whom the lives and deaths of your faithful are precious, we commend our loved ones to your infinite care. May they enjoy the peace and happiness to be found in your eternal embrace. When our days on earth are through and we too face the transition to new life, may our loved ones be there to hold our hands that, together again, we may share the joys of the Resurrection.

All:

Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Sing with all the saints in glory,
Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,
To the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking,
Soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God's likeness we awaken,
Knowing ever-lasting peace.

Oh, what glory, far exceeding
All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it,
There on high our welcome waits.
Every humble spirit shares it,
Christ has passed the eternal gates.

Life eternal! Heaven rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth's closing thunders,
Saints shall stand before the throne!

Credits:

All Saints Prayer 2009:

Edited by Sacha Ludwig

Cover Art:

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Opening Hymn:

Hosea by Gregory Norbert

Call to Prayer:

Jewish Prayer from *A Sourcebook About Christian Death*
by Virginia Sloyan

First Reading:

A quote from Helen Keller from *Seven Sacred Pauses*
by Marcia Weiderkehr

Second Reading:

Romans 8 from *The Message: The New Testament in Contemporary English* by Eugene H. Peterson

Closing Prayer:

Composed by Sacha Ludwig

Closing Hymn:

Sing with All the Saints in Glory by William J. Irons

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