

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Just as Jesus died and has risen again,  
so through Jesus God will bring with him  
those who have fallen asleep;  
and as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ will all be brought to life.**

**COLLECT**

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord,  
and, as our faith in your Son,  
raised from the dead, is deepened,  
so may our hope of resurrection for your  
departed servants  
also find new strength.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Is 25:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare  
for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On  
this mountain he will remove the mourning  
veil covering all peoples, and the shroud  
enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death  
for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from  
every cheek; he will take away his people's  
shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has  
said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our  
God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord  
is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we  
rejoice that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

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

Response:

**The Lord is my light and my help.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. **(R.)**
3. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face. **(R.)**
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans.

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God  
has been poured into our hearts by the Holy  
Spirit which has been given us. We were still  
helpless when at his appointed moment Christ  
died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for  
a good man - though of course for someone  
really worthy, a man might be prepared to die -  
but what proves that God loves us is that Christ  
died for us while we were still sinners. Having  
died to make us righteous, is it likely that he  
would now fail to save us from God's anger?

When we were reconciled to God by the death  
of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we  
have been reconciled, surely we may count on  
being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely  
because we have been reconciled but because  
we are filled with joyful trust in God, through  
our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have  
already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! It is my Father's will, says the  
Lord,  
that I should lose nothing of all that he has  
given me,  
and that I should raise it up on the last day.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied  
by his disciples and a great number of people.  
When he was near the gate of the town it  
happened that a dead man was being carried  
out for burial, the only son of his mother, and  
she was a widow. And a considerable number  
of the townspeople were with her. When the  
Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry'  
he said. Then he went up and put his hand on  
the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said,  
'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead  
man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave  
him to his mother. Everyone was filled with  
awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet  
has appeared among us; God has visited  
his people.' And this opinion of him spread  
throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored**

**and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins**

**and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look favourably on our offerings, O Lord,  
so that your departed servants  
may be taken up into glory with your Son,  
in whose great mystery of love we are all united.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the  
Lord.**

**Whoever believes in me, even though he dies,  
will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant we pray, O Lord, that your departed  
servants,  
for whom we have celebrated this paschal  
Sacrament,  
may pass over to a dwelling place of light and  
peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

You say grace before meals. All right. But I say  
grace before the concert and the opera, and  
grace before the play and pantomime, and  
grace before I open a book, and grace before  
sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing,  
walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip  
the pen in the ink.

*GK Chesterton*

# Sunday Message Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed

THE WORD

Year C • 2 November 2025 • Colour: Violet or Black • Psalter Week 3



In today's Gospel, a boy who has died is being taken for burial. In Palestine, when a person died, the body was washed, wrapped in a shroud and carried by neighbours and friends to the place of burial, usually a cave with a stone at its mouth.

For a widow to lose her only son at a young age was a particularly sad event. In a society lacking social services, a woman without a male member of the family – husband or son – was in a particularly vulnerable position. It was a devastating situation to be in.

Jesus is at the gate of the town when the funeral party passes by on its way to the burial place. He sees the bereaved mother's tears and feels sorry for her. He tells her, "Do not cry." He then halts the procession by putting his hand on the funeral bier and, with a few words, orders the young man to get up. Immediately, the young man sits up. He has been restored to life.

Everyone is filled with awe. They've witnessed something extraordinary. The mother's sorrow turns to joy. Her son has been given back to her.

This story points to Jesus' authority over life and death. His words have divine power. They give life. That's why on this All Souls' day, we can remember and pray for our departed loved ones confident they have crossed the threshold to a new, transformed, glorified life with Christ in God forever. ■

## PRAY

Take some time every day this month to pray for your deceased loved ones, thanking God for them.

## DO

Visit a cemetery or light a candle for all those who have died. Remember especially those who may have no one to pray for them.

## SAY

**"Lord, thank you for our loved ones whom you have called from this life. Watch over and protect them, and bring them to the fullness of eternal joy where we hope one day to be united with them in your presence forever. Amen."**

## LEARN

The Church has always placed great importance on praying for the dead. From its earliest years, it has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers for them so that they may enjoy the glory of heaven. It also recommends almsgiving, indulgences and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead. November has traditionally been the month in which the Church prays in a special way for the souls of those who have died.

The Church teaches that those who die in God's grace and friendship are assured of eternal life but may have to go through a period of purification before reaching the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. This period of purification is called purgatory.

A 10th century Benedictine monk, Odilo of Cluny, was instrumental in spreading the celebration of today's feast throughout the Church.

## REFLECT

Almost ten years ago my father died. He had just celebrated his 84th birthday and had gone into hospital with what presented as a mild chest infection. He appeared to be recovering until, suddenly, out of the blue, early in the morning of 2 December 2015 we got an urgent phone call from the hospital to come in.

We gathered round his bedside shell-shocked, bewildered. Dad was unconscious, an oxygen mask covering his face. We watched him struggle for breath. We spoke to him, shed tears for him, prayed for him, held him tight. We kept telling him how much we loved him and what a wonderful man he was.

After the machine was turned off, we watched helplessly as his breathing grew more laboured, and held our breaths as we watched him fight to get his breath. And then, after five minutes or so, he took one long breath, let it out, and took in no more. He had gone from us. We would never enjoy his company again in this life.

Four years later, in the same hospital, we watched heartbroken as our mother also went home to God.

By the time we are adults, and probably earlier, most of us will have experienced grief and loss. We will have lost a family member or close relative, and will have come face to face with the finality of death. The intense pain of grief passes, eases with time, and on their anniversaries, birthdays, and other occasions, we call them to mind and commemorate them in various ways.

This's what we do in a special way every November and on this feast of All Souls. We take time to remember our deceased loved ones and the deceased members of our community, and to pray for them.

That is why visiting graves and writing out the November List of the Dead are such beautiful, long-standing customs. We are recalling those we don't want to forget. We remember them with love and gratitude, and we entrust them to God, asking God to take them to himself, knowing we will one day meet them again. ■