

NOVEMBER 7, 2021
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



We are promised a new heaven and earth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus
Monday	Isaiah 25:6-9	The Lord has delivered
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6a	A new heaven and earth
Wednesday	John 14:6-14	Jesus is the way to God
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15:42-58	The resurrected body
Friday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of our Lord
Saturday	Psalms 24	Entrance into the temple
Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them." Revelation 21:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Living God, we thank you for those you have given us to know and to love and for the promise of life everlasting through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, all things are yours. We thank you for the fruit of the earth that gives us our food today and your word that promises us life everlasting. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ Jesus our Lord lift up your hearts for the life that knows no end.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Soon and Very Soon



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about someone you loved who has died.
- Why do you think it is important to take time to remember loved ones?
- What special person or persons in your life do you want to remember on All Saint's Day? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 21:1-6a.

We live in the era of the reality of global pandemics. Whether it is COVID-19, some other global virus, the news of natural disasters, civil wars, or other tragedies, we are faced with the reality of death in ways we often try to avoid. All Saints Day is one of those times to face death intentionally in a community of faith. The biblical promise is a new heaven and earth that is brought to us. We don't need to escape this world; God promises to join us. Verse 3 states, *"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God.'" That promise has already begun to happen through Jesus Christ, the Word that became flesh and still dwells among us through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Death forces us to address human limitations and what our own future holds. Our future is held by the God who comes to conquer death and give us a new heaven and earth where death and tears will be no more. This is trustworthy and true. What comfort and hope do you find in knowing this?*

Pray: God of our present and our future, while we grieve the death of loved ones and reflect on our own mortality, help us to remember and trust that you are with us and promise new life in Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Think about someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one at this time. Are there ways you can reach out to help them as they mourn? Perhaps sending a sympathy card, delivering a meal, or including them in prayers? How will you let them know you care?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to give thanks for those we have known and loved over the years. Take time this week to think or talk about loved ones who have died recently or long ago as you look at pictures of them (if available). Light a candle for each of the people. Then pray: **God of hope, thank you for those you have given us to know and to love. Thank you for the life of [names] and for the new life they have in you forever through Christ Jesus. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org