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Called to Be Holy: An All Saints' Day Reflection

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts to praise and adore You. You are our loving Creator, our source of strength, and our constant guide. We thank You for Your goodness, Your mercy, and the countless blessings You give us each day. Lord, You are worthy of all our praise and worship. Help us to recognise Your presence in our lives, to trust in Your love, and to reflect Your goodness in all that we do. May our words and actions bring glory to Your holy name, today and always. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn:

1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold!
Alleluia, alleluia.

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

5 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest:
Alleluia, alleluia!

6. But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on his way!
Alleluia, alleluia!

7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
in praise of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession – All Saints' Day

Loving God, we are sorry for the times we have failed to show Your love, when we have been unkind, selfish, or unwilling to forgive. Help us to learn from the example of the saints and to live with greater kindness, patience, and compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and guide us to follow Jesus more faithfully. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving – All Saints' Day

Heavenly Father, we thank You for all the saints who have inspired us through their faith, courage, and love. We thank You for our loved ones who have gone before us and for the memories we treasure. Help us to follow their example, to share Your love with others, and to live each day with grateful hearts and joyful hope. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." — **Hebrews 12:1–2**

REFLECTION : **The Unseen Multitude**

When we hear the word *saint*, our minds often wander to historical figures—the martyrs, theologians, and missionaries whose extraordinary courage earned them a place in history. But All Saints' Day is a powerful reminder that holiness is not reserved for a spiritual elite.

In scripture, the term *saints* (from the Greek *hagioi*, meaning "holy ones") is used to address every believer set apart by God's grace. This day celebrates not only the famous heroes of our faith, but also the unsung believers who walked quietly beside us:

- The grandparent who faithfully prayed over your childhood.
- The friend who modelled gentle kindness in times of grief.
- The humble servants who worked tirelessly in local churches, unconcerned with earthly praise.

As John describes in Revelation, they form *"a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb"* (Revelation 7:9).

The Character of a Saint

In Matthew 5, Jesus offers the Beatitudes as the true blueprint for sainthood:

The Beatitudes

Jesus said:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

To be a saint is simply to allow Christ’s transformative life to shine through our human weaknesses. Holiness is not moral perfection earned through human effort; it is the presence of God alive in ordinary people.

Running the Race Today

All Saints’ Day bridges the past, present, and future. It reminds us that our earthly lives are part of a continuous story. The "cloud of witnesses" does not stand above us to judge or criticize our failures. Instead, their lives cheer us forward, testifying that God is faithful through every trial, persecution, and season of doubt.

As you reflect today, consider:

1. **Gratitude:** Who are the saints in your life who pointed you toward Jesus? Take a moment to thank God for their legacy.
2. **Encouragement:** Where in your life are you feeling weary? Let the endurance of past generations remind you that God’s strength is perfected in your weakness.
3. **Calling:** How might God be inviting you to show His peace, mercy, and love in your corner of the world today?

Hymn:

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation,
By water and the word;
From Heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the Earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

3. 'Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forever more;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

4. O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee;
There, past the border mountains,
Where in sweet vales, the bride
With thee, by living fountains,

Forever shall abide!

Prayers of intercession

On this All Saints' Day, inspired by the faith and love of all the saints, let us bring our prayers to God.

1. For the Church Lord, may Your Church follow the example of the saints, sharing Your love and kindness with everyone. Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For peace in the world We pray for all those affected by war and conflict. May peace, justice, and understanding grow among all people. Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For those who are suffering We pray for the sick, the lonely, and those facing difficult times. May they find comfort and hope in Your love. Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For our departed loved ones We remember all those who have died, especially our family and friends. May they rest in Your eternal peace. Lord, hear our prayer.
5. For the example of the saints We thank You for all the saints who inspire us to live with faith, courage, and love. Help us to follow their example in our daily lives. Lord, hear our prayer.
6. For ourselves and our communities Lord, help us to be more loving, forgiving, and generous, bringing Your light and kindness to everyone we meet. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Blessing

May the example of all the saints inspire us to live with faith, hope, and love.
May God bless us, guide us, and keep us in His care, today and always.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CCLI Licence 70101