



ALL SAINTS DAY

NOVEMBER 1

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation.

⁹After this I looked,
and there was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white,
with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne
and around the elders and the four living creatures,
and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

¹²singing,
“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,
“Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?”

¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.”

Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal;
they have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Word of God, word of life.

or

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

First and foremost, this is a vision. Revelation! A sense of wonder is essential. See the scene. Fill in the details in your mind before you begin to read. Help the hearer see what you see. This text declares that God sustains God's own and that they will take their place around the heavenly throne forever. This is a long reading. The temptation is to read rapidly. Don't.

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from First John.

¹See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God,
and that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this:

when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves,
just as he is pure.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

The sound of serene confidence might well carry the entire reading. Do not hurry it. Savor every sentence, each clause. Smile, even.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

It may be possible to bring the assembly to the mountain of Matthew 5 by allowing each “Blessed are” to hang in the air a bit once it has been voiced. Give the hearer a sense of our Lord’s “thinking up” the beatitudes rather than “reading” them. A reading textured with thoughtful pauses may help the people in the pew to hear them as for the first time.