



## Sunday Worship at Home – All Saints 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021

### Opening Prayers:

Rejoice and praise the Lord

**Let us offer praises for all God's saints**

**in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God. Amen**

### Invitation to confession:

Hear the good news that the love of God is beyond measure and you are included in that love.

For the times when we have forgotten to love God our creator.

### Lord have mercy

When we have not followed Christ, our Saviour.

### Christ have mercy.

For the times we have not trusted in the Spirit, our guide.

### Lord have mercy

May almighty God bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

God of holiness your glory is proclaimed in every age:

as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Reading: Wisdom 3:1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Reflection on the Reading.

Today we remember all the saints who followed Jesus, many of whom became martyrs in order to show their love for God and the depth of their faith. The truth is that each and every one of us has the potential to be a saint if we are willing to acknowledge Christ as the Messiah, the Son of the living God and live our lives according to his will. We do that partly by praying, reading our bible and doing good to others – as Jesus did and the early disciples did but foremost, we must live in a power that comes from God, on whom we depend. It is

that attitude of dependant faith which makes disciples shine with the goodness, care and compassion that gets them marked out as saints by others.

Our reading today is quite often used in the funeral service as it speaks about death and the suffering of the good. No matter how great our sufferings are, they cannot be compared with the peace that we are promised after death as we enter fully into the kingdom of God. It was this knowledge that gave courage to all who suffer or have been martyred for their faith as they remained faithful to the way of Christ. We hope and pray we will never be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice for Christ and although we can't know precisely what happens after death, we know what happens before it and we trust in God to continue to be God. So as we remember the people who have died for their love of God, we remember also that God will still be taking care of them. Amen

### **The Creed**

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

**Be still and Pray:** For our families and those and all those we love and those we will meet today. For the Church throughout the world, especially in our Benefice; those who will attend the service at Great Houghton and those who will worship at home. For our nations' leaders to govern with love and care and for her Majesty the Queen as she continues to undertake her duties to the nation. Think of those you know who are saints on earth, whose help for others is unstinting and humble in its execution. May God give comfort to those who are ill or recovering from illness. Keep in your hearts the memory of those who have died recently, especially Andrew Sherman and Jean Barber may they rest in peace and rise in glory. May God's presence be felt by their families who mourn their loss. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever

**Amen**

### **The Blessing:**

May God who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints, pour upon you the riches of his grace:

and may the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you,  
and all those you love, this day and always. Amen

*Reverend Irene*