

## Readings for All Saints Day 2020

### Revelation 7.9-17

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.’

All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying:

‘Amen!  
Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honour  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen!’

Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?’

I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’

And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

‘they are before the throne of God  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne  
will shelter them with his presence.  
“Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat down on them,”  
nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the centre of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
“he will lead them to springs of living water.”  
“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Matthew 5.1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.  
His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

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

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

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

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

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

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

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

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

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