

Daily Office for the Season from All Saints — Eve of Advent

Becoming present to God

Through a sign of attentiveness like lighting a candle or

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

or

O blest communion,
fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle,
they in glory shine,
yet all are yours
and all in praise combine, Alleluia

or

We recognize that

**To thee all Angels cry aloud: the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee.**

The Te Deum Laudamus BCP.

Celebrating the presence of God

Eternal God,,you have called women and men to faith in you from the beginnings of humanity,
and recognizing Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebeka, Jacob,
Moses, Samuel, Debra and Ruth, Elijah and Elisha as amongst our mothers and fathers in faith, we praise you for your gracious dealings with Israel.
For every person and moment of faith, we praise you.

For John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph, forerunners in the way of discipleship,
For every person and moment of faith, we praise you

For the Twelve, St Paul, the four Evangelists, and all the women who accompanied Jesus,

For every person and moment of faith, we praise you

For the shapers of the faith of every generation, for Benedict, Francis and Clare, Catherine, Julian, Ignatius, Luther and Calvin,

For every person and moment of faith, we praise you

For John Smyth, Thomas Helwys, Daniel Turner, William Carey, Charles Spurgeon and Mary Seacole, and all those who have shaped our Baptist life,

For every person and moment of faith, we praise you

For martyrs and all who have followed Christ in suffering

For every person and moment of faith, we praise you

For those who have formed us in faith and led us to Christ, sustained us and carried us in their heart,

For all the saints who are now at rest, who await resurrection and worship on that farther shore, we praise and thank you.

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

Acknowledging our humanity

When we forget all that has gone before, and think our day is of greater significance than others,

Lord broaden our horizons and deepen our humility.

When we narrow our vision to our day, our place and our community,

Lord widen for us again the landscape of your purposes.

When we lose sight of those who will carry the baton of faith when our grasp of it slips into eternity,

Lord, expand our concern for your Word in every generation that will follow until time is wrapped in eternity, the fragile is swept up in the strength of your love and the eternal city finds its rest upon the earth you will renew.

Listening for the Word of God

From *The Common Lectionary*

Canticle - Optional

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely** and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, **and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.**

³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Reflecting on our roots

*Living God, enable us this day
to be pilgrims and companions:
committed to the way of Christ,
faithful to the call of Christ,
discerning the mind of Christ,
offering the welcome of Christ,
growing in the likeness of Christ,
engaging in the mission of Christ,
in the world that belongs to Christ.*

Bringing our concerns

We pray for all those facing suffering and death today....

We pray for all who mourn those lost in the sudden trauma of war, violence or environmental hazard....

We pray for all whose steps on the way of faith are wavering today.....

We pray for all who pass on and teach the faith to the next generation.....

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church in every place....

We pray for those whom God has placed in our care.....

We pray for ourselves that we might persevere in the way of faith until journey's end brings us to heaven's gate, the hope of glory and the fullness of the divine vision.

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

Going to love and serve

We are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved. (Hebrews 10:39)

Lord, keep us faithful today so that we may in due course join the vast company of saints who await with joy the Day of Resurrection.

Optional:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

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