

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA
ALL SAINTS' DAY
10:00 A.M.
NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Prayer of Meditation

Our encounters with God will generally come to us through secondary causes—that is, in the concrete, flesh-and-blood lives of Image-bearing humanity. Let us remember with thanksgiving all those human feet who have brought us good news, and let us pray also for the grace to be those feet that bring God's good news to the world. -Br. Sean Glenn, SSJE

Opening Hymn #287

“For all the saints”

Sine Nomine



1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
 2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might: _____
 3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, _____
 4. O blest communion, fellowship divine! _____

5
 thee _____ by faith before the world confessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight; _____
 fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and
 9 We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet

Name, O _____ Je - sus, be for ev - er _____ blessed,
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.
 win, with _____ them, the vic - tor's crown of _____ gold.
 all are _____ one in thee, for all are _____ thine.

13
 Al - le - lu - ia, al _____ le - lu - ia!

THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: There is one hope in God's call to us;
Priest: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People: One God and Father of all.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Revelation 7:9-17

Reader: Mary Bennett

A Reading from the Revelation to John.

After 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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And 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, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that 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. For 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. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for 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."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Reader: Richard Holdredge

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the Lord; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt his Name together.

- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!
- 9 Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
- 22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

The Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

Reader: Shari Schlaman

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

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

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

♩ = 80

Intro. Verses 1 & 2:

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, — but you
pass through rag-ing wa-ters in the

7 shall not die of thirst. You shall wan - der far in safe - ty — though you
sea, you shall not drown. IF you walk a - mid the burn - ing flames,

11 do not know the way. You shall speak your words in for - eign lands and all will un - der -
you shall not be harmed. If you stand be - fore the pow'r of hell and death is at your

16 stand. You shall see the face of God and live. ——— Be not — a - afraid.
side, know that I am with you through it all. ———

Refrain:

23 I go be - fore you al-ways. Come, fol-low me, and I will give you rest. 1. — — — — —
2. If you

30 2. — — — — — Verse 3:
3. Bless-ed are your poor, for the king-dom shall be theirs. Blest are you that

36 weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh. And if wick-ed men in - sult and hate you

41 all be-cause of me, bless-ed, bless-ed are you! Refrain:
Be not — a - afraid, I go be-

50 fore you al-ways. Come fol-low me, and I will give you rest. ———

The Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "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 receive 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 for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Priest: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Priest: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Priest: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Anthem

Oh! What a Beautiful City
 Soloist: Yolanda Mitchell West

Negro Spiritual arr. Boatner

Oh! what a beautiful city,
 Oh! what a beautiful city,
 Oh! what a beautiful city,
 Twelve gates-a to the city, Hallelujah!

There's three gates in-a the East,
 three gates in-a the West;
 Three gates in-a the North,
 and three gates in-a the South,
 making it twelve gates-a to the city, a-Hallelujah.

O, my Lord built-a that day,
 that was just a-fore square;
 wanted all-a you sinners
 to meet Him in-a the air,
 'Cause He built twelve gates-a to the city, a-Hallelujah.

Prayers of the People

Reader: Erick Long

Alleluia! Let us join the countless throngs who sing God's praises, praying, "We praise you, O God; your praise is ever in our mouths."

God of the pilgrim Church, you love us and call us your children: give your Church a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Continue to nurture us by the example and fellowship of those saints who have journeyed before us.

Silence

Intercessor: We praise you, O God;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of all people, you love us and call us your children: In a world of violence and war, you bless the peacemakers. Make us instruments of healing and peace.

Silence

Intercessor: We praise you, O God;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of creation, you love us and call us your children: you have given this earth to the meek. May our steps be gentle and leave a small footprint on our earth. As it has been handed on to us, may we carefully preserve this creation for future generations.

Silence

Intercessor: We praise you, O God;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of the city, you love us and call us your children: bless the poor with good things. Visit our impoverished neighborhoods with hope, mercy, and relief. Give us hearts for the poor in our region.

Silence

Intercessor: We praise you, O God;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of the mournful and suffering, you love us and call us your children: comfort and heal those in need. Hear them in their affliction and save them from their troubles.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: We praise you, O God;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

God of the Church at rest, you love us and call us your children: we praise you for the faith and witness of all the saints. May their prayers and presence continue to strengthen us. It is with their triumphant voices that we join our own prayers and praises. Alleluia!

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: We praise you, O God;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Prayer for an Election

Priest and People say together:

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Members of the congregation are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to be celebrating the following birthdays: Debbie Richards on October 29th and Tom Jensen on November 4th.

Stewardship Reflection

Julie Johnson

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Setting of the Table

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures, here below.
Praise God, you hosts in heaven above; Praise God the Trinity of Love. Amen.**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you,

we give thanks to you,

and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Anne Harris, James Sanders, Jerry Walton, Stanford Long, Lydia DeFeis, Kavita Shah, Daniel Resano, Patti Aijian, Rachael Durley, Esther Honescko Gorman, Flo Jordan, Tom Halliday, Russell Minter, Margie Ferris, Arran Belt, Arden Moser, Donna Oakley, Dennis Witzel, Rev. Calvin Moore, John Beran, David, Sean, Gene Blocher, Sam, Mary Jo, Dan Jeski, Kendyl Green, Norris Goode, Sarah Fairman Engel, Anne, Peter, Carol, David Prather, Bettie Downing, Sandy Ends, Lorraine Martini, Jan Neelands, Michael White, Elan, Joe, Betty Jean Tuck Goode, Marjorie, Charlie Stanzione, Bobbie Tomenson-Filion, David, Hebert Antonio Altamirano, and all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Stephen and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Honor them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

In union, O Christ, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, O Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

A Reverencing of the Memorial Crosses

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Gracious God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, as we go about our lives, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

May God, who kindled the fire of God's own love in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon you the riches of holy grace.

May God give you joy in their fellowship
and a share in their praises.

May God strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory.

And the Blessing of God the one holy and undivided trinity
be among you, and remain with you always.

Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn #522

“Glorious things of thee are spoken”

Austria



1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty of our God;
2. See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,
3. Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
4. Blest in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on, washed in the Re - deem - er's blood!



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.



on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and shade by day,
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to reign as kings:



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
Grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
safe they feed up - on the man - na which he gives them when they pray.
and as priests, his sol - emn prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

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Spiritual Communion prayer: Amended from the *The Prayer Book for the Armed Services*.