

November 2nd, 2025 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

***[Click on the links for the Bible Verse\(s\)](#)

All Saints

The custom of commemorating on a single day all the saints of the church, especially the many unknown martyrs, originated in the fourth century. By the eighth century, the festival commemorating all saints had been moved in England and Ireland to November 1 in order to Christianize the Celtic harvest festival of Samhain which marked the beginning of winter and communal attention to the dead. In current Christian use, the day is dedicated to thanksgiving for all the unnamed who died in the Lord. In many assemblies, the names of those who have died over the previous twelve months are read aloud, a practice originally associated with All Souls Day on November 2. The conflation of the two emphases fits with the Protestant beliefs that all the Christian dead are saints, none needs release from purgatory, and it is only to God whom we pray.

The readings for All Saints are best used at a service scheduled on November 1. Some assemblies observe All Saints on the first Sunday in November. According to guidance from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Leaders Edition* (pp. 12-13), the lesser festival of All Saints would “normally” replace the Sunday (Lectionary 31 or 32, depending on the year). It is, however, acceptable (and, for some, preferable) instead to maintain the usual Sunday readings—those for Lectionary 31 or 32—but to add an emphasis on all saints, for example, by praying both prayers of the day (Lectionary 31 or 32, and All Saints) and by reading out the names of the past year’s local dead in a solemn litany of thanksgiving.

[Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18](#)

Many saints in the past and the present experienced political oppression. Yet whatever are the “four beasts” that terrify believers, God promises that in the end the “holy ones,” that is, the saints, will join with the Most High in the kingdom of God’s holiness.

[Ephesians 1:11-23](#)

That Ephesians refers to all believers as “saints” makes this reading particularly appropriate for All Saints Day. We saints have heard the word and been enlightened in baptism and sealed with the Holy Spirit. We gather to praise God, and live in the hope of God’s salvation and with the power of God among us. God has put Christ above whatever “rule and authority and power and dominion” work to limit us and restrict our ministry.



Luke 6:20-31

This version of the Beatitudes is especially appropriate for All Saints Day since it is addressed to “you,” to all of us blessed by God. The extraordinary ethics described by Luke has inspired many believers—for example Martin of Tours and Francis of Assisi—to radical behavior and exceptional lifestyles. The final verse of this passage, usually called “the Golden Rule,” expresses the ethic of reciprocity that was taught also by philosophers of antiquity and is perhaps the most famous dictum of the New Testament; its popularity might render it tame, less striking than the earlier sentences, such as “give to everyone who begs from you.”