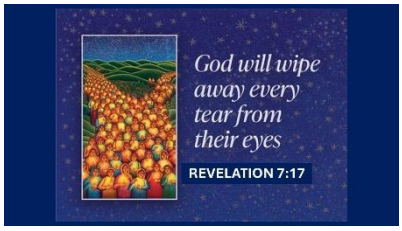
The Readings on This Day



****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

November 1st, 2026-All Saints

The custom of commemorating the saints of the church, especially martyrs, on a single day 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 the local dead are read aloud, a focus originally associated with All Souls Day on November 2. The conflation of the two emphases fits with the Protestant belief that the all the Christian dead are saints and none needs release from purgatory.

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.

Revelation 7:9-17

This magnificent poetic passage describes the worship of God ("the throne") and Christ ("the Lamb") in the heavenly realm. Joining with angels, church leaders, and the "four living creatures" are all believers ("robed in white") who suffered on earth. The vision means to comfort Christians who mourn their dead and to inspire trust that God will bring joy out of sorrow.

The Psalm for the Day

Hearing the vision of worship around the heavenly throne, we respond by singing **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**. The "I" of the psalm asks the entire community to join in praising God who has saved me "from all my troubles." The Hebrew of verse 9 can be translated either as "holy ones" or "saints." In the coming holy communion, we will taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1 John 3:1-3

The reading expresses our trust that at the end, we will see God, who loves us. As children, we will see the Father; unknown by the world, we are known by God.

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes are appointed for All Saints because they describe a surprising grouping of persons who find their wholeness in blessings from God, rather than in the values of this world. True happiness comes from life with God. The Beatitudes proclaim trust that God will bring about salvation, despite appearances. In true biblical fashion, God is on the side of the underdog.