

Trinity 24

All Saints, November 1. Only Morning Prayer so far. Homily for Evening prayer will be written.

Morning Prayer

First Lesson: Wisdom 3:1-9

Second Lesson: Rev 19:1-16

Homily

*"... the souls of the righteous
are in the hand of God,
and there shall no torment touch them. "*

This is All Saints' Day.

The Church Calendar is full of Saints' days.

A few major ones, mostly of Apostles,
are found in the Book of Common Prayer,
and a large number of others fill the pages
of our calendars and Missals.

Today we remember all of them,
the ones with days in the Calendar,
the ones there just isn't space for,
and the ones no one knows but God.

So who are the saints?

Are they some superhuman kind of being,

a sort of creature altogether different from us?
If we discount the angels, also called "saint",
they are not.

As the children's hymn has it:

"The saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too."

The first thing to remember about a saint
is that he or she is a sinner,
just like we are.

As St. Paul wrote:

*"All have sinned
and come short of the glory of God."
and, speaking of himself,
"... sinners, of whom I am chief."*

A saint, just like us, needs a Savior.

Without forgiveness he or she
won't make it to Heaven.

Moreover, saints don't have it easy
on this earth.

The same writer that said that
no torment would touch them
also said these things:

*"In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die:
and their departure is taken for misery,
And their going from us to be utter destruction: ...*

*... they be punished in the sight of men, ...
 ... a little chastised, ...
 As gold in the furnace hath he tried them,
 and received them as a burnt offering."*

Saints have been beaten, imprisoned, and killed.
 They have been ridiculed and ignored.
 They have been hungry and cold and sick.
 Anyone who wants to depict the Christian life
 as a bed of fragrant roses,
 need only to read St. Paul's descriptions
 of the hardships he endured.
 Saints are only too aware of their own faults,
 their own weaknesses, their own sins,
 and cry out often for forgiveness.
 Sometimes saints are filled with doubts,
 with questions, with emotional pain
 and spiritual anguish,
 and sometimes feel that their prayers
 are getting nowhere at all.
 This was the late-in-life testimony
 of the great Mother Teresa of India.
 A saint is sure of one thing:

that he or she is no saint;
 and trusts only in God's promise
 for salvation.

But a saint, sometimes aware,
 sometimes not,
 walks in the presence of God,
 constantly coming to him
 for forgiveness and redirection,
 seeking only to please Him,
 and to become like Him.

A saint is not a special human being,
 but an unworthy vessel for God's presence
 in an unworthy world.
 His righteousness is not his own,
 but the righteousness of God.
 And he or she is not a presence apart,
 but a living and vibrant human being,
 with exactly the same calling
 that you and I have.
 We sometimes proclaim,
 "I'm no saint!"
 as though that excused our weakness.
 There's only one answer to that:
 "Why not?"
 It is our calling to be saints.

This world is full of saints of God,
 struggling, always seeking salvation.
 Heaven is also full of His saints,
 and their struggles have ended,

their questions are answered,
they know the fullness of His presence.

There is everlasting Joy in the presence
of the Son of God who died and rose
for them -- and for us.

They are a great company of witnesses
standing, as it were in the grandstands,
cheering us on as we struggle forward,
constantly praying for us,
willing us, like them, to be saints,
to dwell with them and with Him
in glory everlasting.

Ask yourself,
"Am I a saint?"
and then ask yourself,
"Why not?"

Let us pray.

Almighty God who hast called all men unto holiness,
and hast sent thine only-begotten Son for our
redemption and out sanctification. Grant us some
part in the prayers and examples of thy saints who
have gone before, and, by the blood of Jesus and the
life of His Resurrection, enable us to live on this
earth as thy saints and to attain with them to

everlasting life. Through the same Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

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Evening Prayer

First Lesson: Wisdom 5:1-4, 14-16

Second Lesson: Rev 21:1-4, 22-27, 22:1-5

Homily to be written