

The Souls of the Just are in the Hands of God

The Commemoration of All
the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
November 2, 2025

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

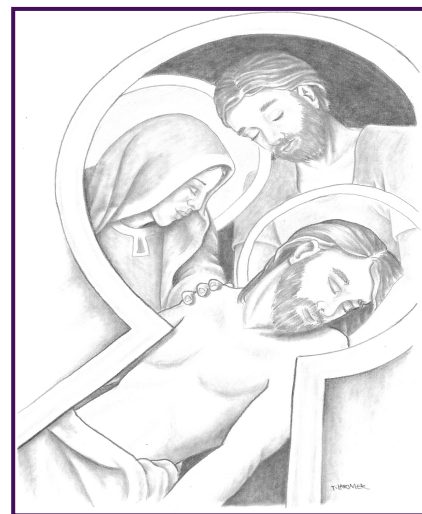
I remember the first time I experienced death was when I was 8 years old. I was already an orphan with no parents. My mother had died, and my dad had left me. My grandma took me in as a baby, and growing up, I thought she was my mom. I would call her mom; she loved me.

One night when I was eight, she had a heart attack. I remember we were all in the same room in Mexico, so there was no way to call 911. When the doctor arrived, it was too late. I remember my uncle was angry at the doctor for not being able to help her. It was a really traumatic experience; my world was shattered. I remember being on my bunk bed crying, not understanding life and death. I pleaded with God to save her and to bring my mom back, but she was gone. How can someone experience so much death?

After that, two of my brothers passed away. I was 13 years old when my brother took his last breath. His last words were, "I have made peace with God." How can God take my family from me? I rebelled against God. I was angry at Him for taking everyone from me at such a young age. I became numbed to death. I never allowed myself to feel or cry for no one ever again, which led me to a life of crime.

Today, I am working on putting my life in God's hands. I still don't understand His purpose for so much hurt, but I humbly ask Him to forgive me for my sins.

- Victor, who is in a California State Prison.



Drawing by Travis

PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

God of the living,
We believe that you are a God of a love that is stronger than death since your Son Jesus Christ, born as one of us, destroyed death for ever. Let all the faithful departed live in the security of your love. Let them enjoy peace, your peace, and give to us, too, the courage to face life and to live it in close union with your Son.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Wisdom 3: 1-9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Romans 6: 3-9

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 6: 37-40

Jesus said to the crowds: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



MEDITATION: WIDOW'S SON

the hill was steep
the casket was heavy
with the young life
did not feel the weight
of the box of a young boy

his mother's feet
were bloodied
did not matter
her heart was broken
by the death
of her son joshua
her only son
the accident was sudden
his body had been twisted
torn

sarah held him
in her arms
for one last time
before he was laid
in this box
her dress was bloodied
her hands drenched
she was now alone
she had put such hope
in this twelve-year-old life
after her husband
was killed

her life was brightened
with joshua's presence
it all ended
in one minute
no more boy
playing in the fields

now carrying this box
so many memories
flowed through her
the grief ripping
at her heart

never could she imagine
what it would be like
to lose a child
as her feet walked
in the hot dust
it was like
she was falling down
a dark hole
deeper and deeper
trying to catch
her breath
feeling as if she
had fallen down
to lose the one
she had given birth to
had given her milk to
had held in her hands
had watched walk
had walked to the
synagogue

now she was walking
without him by her side
the first morning
she woke up
felt an emptiness
within her
with the realization
that joshua
was not there
sarah was waiting
to hear his voice
going to his room
and no one there
walking with this box
she was only left
with an ache
in the heart
reaching the top
looking into the distance
seeing a small group
coming up the hill

jesus looking at sarah
feeling saddened
by experiencing
such grief in another
the group
carrying the box
stopped

jesus approaching
embracing sarah
expressing his sorrow
how difficult to
be a parent
to lose your child
jesus was offering
her comfort

at first jesus could
not say one thing

but as jesus
embraced sarah
the presence of joshua
was so palpable
she knew
she could feel that
her son was alive
that his presence
was there
filling her heart
giving her comfort
knowing he was
with god

jesus wanted
all those to follow him
down through the ages
to know how
we never really die
jesus wanted to show
all those present
how close joshua

still was

jesus asked them
to lower the box
bringing out joshua
jesus kneeling down
putting his hand
over joshua's heart
slowly breathing
in new life

sarah knew
that her son
could never really die
remembering
jesus' words
whoever believes
in me
will live forever
forever
do not fear
live forever
eternal life
do you believe?

this eternal life
giving her comfort

jesus did not want
to see sarah hurt
any more

joshua slowly sitting up
after jesus touched him
life
eternal life
a deep mystery
surrounding
a once mourning group
eternal life



REFLECTION: I remember a time I lost someone close to me... I remember how hard it was...
I remember... I remember...

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Savior gave us:

**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.**

**R. For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you
peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our
sins, but on the faith of your Church, and
grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to
his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter
under my roof, but only say the word and
my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Merciful Father,

Hear our prayers and console us. As we renew
our faith in your Son, whom you raised from the
dead, strengthen our hope that all our departed
brothers and sisters will share in his resurrection,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

