The Solemnity of All Saints

Cycle A | November 1, 2026

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

When I meditate on my past and the sins I have committed, I think about the impact they've had on my life. I have met so many people who say God has forgiven me, that I do not need to worry about my past. I know, and I have experienced, that sin continues to haunt me. Since I was a practicing drug addict, I still have to deal with the part of me that deluded myself into thinking drugs provide me happiness. This requires me to forget the self-destructive spiral that my selfish actions led me to experience. Sin hardens the heart.

My desire to surrender everything past, present, and future, and to come to God through Mary comes from my belief in Jesus' words: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." It is a good realization that nothing in this world can satisfy my soul except God Himself; especially, material things cannot take the place of God. I see so much of this modern age as idolatry to material things. People's souls are so empty of humanity. Yet, I become freer by being both materially poor and spiritually poor. Being spiritually poor means simply being totally convinced that I cannot control my life and wanting to surrender my life to God because only He can satisfy my soul.

- Joseph, who is in a California State Prison.



"St. Michael" by J. Salazar

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 hope,
Through the saints,
you inspire us today with new hope for the future of the world and of people.
Make us realize that with your strength, our boldest dreams can come true and even be surpassed: that justice, peace, and love are worth living and dying for.
May the saints inspire us to follow Christ as they did.

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

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel. After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.
The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.
Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.
R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.
He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.
R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so 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 shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you
and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Meditation: Fortunate

the fields stretched
on forever
row after row of corn
that afternoon
the wind blew
through the stalks
the whole week
we had been surrounded
by the sick
been involved in
many problems
today we had left early
to rest far away
from everyone
talking about how
we were probably
being followed
but jesus was alive today
his eyes shined
catching the vastness
of being in the country

jesus,
i am glad we are here
walking slowly
through this field
it is good to be with you
jesus, the diseased woman
yesterday hardly
seemed human but
the way you bent down
and prayed for her
and healed her
jesus,
what i felt yesterday is
how much you loved her
while everyone else
scorned her

peter,
my god loves
without limits

jesus,
that is what we talked
about before sleeping
last night
how much your god
loves each one of us
but we really
don't believe it
we have been taught
to feel impure outside
of the religious system
as a result it is hard
for me personally
to really believe
i am loved by your god
so many years of
hearing the opposite
stops me from feeling this

jesus' eyes pierced into me
we sat down with the view
of the whole countryside
some of our group
were hungry
and began to eat
from the stalks
this gave me
the opportunity to
spend time with jesus
i told him how ever
since i could remember
i desired to be close
to one greater
when i studied
in the synagogue
i would be moved
by how god acted
rescuing our people
from slavery
felt sometimes
this presence so strong
i could feel god
present with me
but then when i was nine
our family was thrown
out of the synagogue
because my brother
had leprosy
all doors were
closed to us
that is when i began
to feel how god was
not pleased with me
we were outcasts
like so many others
the division between
the pure and the impure
became clearer to me
i wanted to free myself
from this feeling of
being far away from god

was glad my friends
were somewhat
distant eating
because these
tremendous memories,
rejection,
sadness of being told
i was condemned by god
were too much
i could not help myself
i began to weep sorrow
flowing out from
every part of my being
for years i had lived
with this alienation
i never want to go back
to that place of self-hate
what right does
anyone have to tell us
we are despised by god?

jesus,
i am glad you are
healing me of this
by who you are,
by what you do
and by whom
you choose to be with

jesus embraced me
and once again
i experienced
the love of god
a presence so deep,
so powerful
to be loved by your god
not to just know it,
but to feel it
thank you,
jesus for letting me
experience this love

just as i finished
telling jesus all this
the pharisees appeared
close to where
our friends were seated
three of the most arrogant
the oldest pointing
his finger at the stalks
that had been picked

jesus,
holy one
don't you know
this is forbidden
on the sabbath?

here again
these so-called pure ones
were throwing us aside
by their rigorous
legal system
angry at how useless,
outdated laws
were keeping us from god
how this judgmental
condemnation had made
so many feel so dirty
so worthless
never worthy
to address god

peter,
stay here
i will approach them
jesus slowly walking
to where the three stood
with disdain dripping
from their eyes

friends,
good you could find time
to be in the countryside
it seems you are upset
at the actions of my friends
they have worked
hard all week
we have not stopped to eat
they were starving
of course we remember
our ancestor david
when he was starving
he went into
the place of worship
took the bread
that was reserved
just for the priests
he brought it outside
sat down with his friends
and shared it with them
just like my friends
are doing now
perhaps this might say
something about
who our creator is
laws are to protect us
provide us with a way
to live together
our creator did not desire
that david starve
nor does he desire this
for our group here
laws are not meant
to enslave us
the three listening
their disgust growing
with time
i could tell from
where i was seated
they did not understand
anything that
jesus was explaining
they turned their backs
and left abruptly
as only pure self-righteous
can do so many things
came together for me
that afternoon

jesus returned smiling
peter,
you really are free and
loved by one greater
let's continue walking
enjoying the beauty
of creation
i felt lighter
i never returned to
that place of feeling
alienated from god
presence overwhelming
feeling that afternoon
deep overflowing
we enjoyed the whole day
refreshed to begin
another week

REFLECTION: I remember a time I felt loved by God…. 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:
Lord God,
The saints were people like us, weak, with faults like the ones we have; only, they did not take these failings for granted. May we also respond to God's call with hope, strength and courage through Christ, our Lord.

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