

Sunday 1 November 2026

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fourth Sunday before Advent

All Saints Sunday (Year A)

First Reading - Revelation 7.9-13a, 14b-17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I looked,
and saw a great multitude,
that no one could count,
from every nation,
tribe, people, and language,
standing before the throne,
and before the Lamb,
robed in white,
waving palm branches,
and declaring, with one voice,
'Salvation belongs to our God,
and to the Lamb!'
The angels
around the throne
bowed down
and worshipped God,
singing, 'All blessing and honour,
all glory and power,
all majesty, virtue, wisdom and praise,
belong to our God for ever!'
One of the elders said, 'These, in white robes,
are the ones who have come out
of the great ordeal.
They have purified their robes
in the life-blood of the Lamb.
Now they are before
the throne of God,
serving continually in God's temple.
And God will protect them:
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
and they will hunger and thirst no more.
The Lamb, on the throne, will be their shepherd,
and will guide them
to the spring
of the water of life.
And God will wipe away
every tear from their eyes.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4.14-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters,
we know
that Jesus died,
and rose again.
And we can trust
that God will also raise up
those who have
died in Christ.
Indeed the Lord has revealed to us
that they will go to meet the Lord
ahead of us
when the Lord returns.

The Lord will come down from heaven,
and at the Lord's command -
with a trumpet blast
and the call of an archangel -
those who have died in Christ
will be raised up first.

Only then
will we who are
left alive
be caught up
in the clouds
with them,
to meet the Lord,
and to be with the Lord for ever.
So encourage one another
with these words.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 23.2-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowds,
and to his disciples,
'The scribes and the Pharisees
teach the law of Moses,
but they do not live
by the law
they teach.
So follow what they teach,
but do not follow
what they do.
They place burdens on others
that they are not willing
to carry themselves.
Everything they do,
they do to be seen by others.
They love to take
the places of honour
at banquets,
and the best seats
in the synagogues.
They love to be greeted in the market-place,
and to have people call them Teacher.
But you are not to be called Teacher,
for the Messiah
is your only teacher,
and you are all
learning together.
And you should call
no one on earth
your father,
for you have one Father -
your Father in heaven.
And amongst you,
the servant
will be the greatest.
For those who place themselves above others
will be brought down.
But those who choose
to be humble
will be lifted up.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.