

# All Saint's Day – Justice & Solidarity

## Leader's Guide

*This prayer service is designed to lead the participants to deeper awareness of our call to justice and solidarity through the celebration of the saints.*

## Materials/Preparation

Prepare a meditative area with dim lighting. On a central table place a small bowl of salt, a larger empty bowl, a bible and one large lit candle. Prepare seating in a circular formation, creating multiple rows if necessary. Provide a copy of the prayer services and a taper, tea light or votive candles for each participant.

## Gathering

Distribute unlit taper or votive candles to all attending the prayer service. They may be seated in the circle or process in during the gathering song. As they process in, invite participants to go to the larger candle on the table and light their candles from the larger one. After lighting the candle, the student should take a small bit of salt from the bowl and place it in the larger empty bowl. We do this in solidarity as Catholic disciples of salt and light. If processing into the room is not an option, simply invite participants to come forward randomly from their seats to light their candles.

Consider using one of the following songs for gathering:

- *Refiner's Fire* (Brian Doerksen, Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, 1990. For words and lyrics, refer to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or [www.higherpraise.com/lyrics1/RefinersFire2.htm](http://www.higherpraise.com/lyrics1/RefinersFire2.htm))
- *No Longer Strangers* (David Haas, GIA Publications, Inc., 1993)
- *Song of the Chosen* (Rory Cooney, GIA Publications, Inc., 1986)

## Call to Prayer

**Leader:** We mindfully gather today to remember those who have gone before us in mercy and grace. We reflect on their lives of compassion and ways of peace. For those who have truly known Christ and have walked in his footsteps.

**All:** *To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God*

**Leader:** We mindfully gather today to celebrate the lives of saints, those known and unknown to us. We reflect on their works of selflessness and nobility.

**All:** *To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God*

**Leader:** We mindfully gather today to pray for the saints, and ourselves, that we may be called as they were. We reflect on our limitations, but our limitless abilities, as well.

**All:** *To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul, O my God*

**Leader:** O Lord, hear our prayers, listen to our cries for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to our relief.  
Let the morning bring us word of your unfailing love,  
for we have put our trust in you.  
Show us the way to go, for to you we lift up our souls.  
Teach us to do your will, for you are our God;  
may your good Spirit lead us to level ground.  
In your unfailing love, silence our enemies;  
destroy all our foes, for we are your servants. (Psalm 143: 1, 8, 10, 12)

**All:** *Amen*

# All Saint's Day – Justice & Solidarity

**Reading:** Matthew 5, 13-16

## Moment of Silent Reflection

**Reading:** *The reading today is a reflection by Bishop Ken Untener (October 1979), titled, "Prophets of a Future not our Own".*

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.  
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,  
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

**Suggested Song:** *I Lift Up My Soul* (Tim Mannion, Oregon Catholic Press, 1979) or another suitable song of reflection

# All Saint's Day – Justice & Solidarity

## Shared Reflection

*(To begin the reflection, the leader can use the reading by Bishop Untener to share some personal thoughts about its meaning to self, small communities, our society as a whole and All Saints Day. Some additional thoughts about All Saints Day are provided below.)*

We gather today in memory of those whom have died--especially saints, known and unknown in the eyes of the Church. In a few moments, we will recite a litany of the saints together, but first, you should know a little something about All Saints Day in the eyes of the Catholic Church.

November first is the calendar day we celebrate this holy day of obligation. It is an opportunity to honor the saints, those men and women who have died, but before so, dedicated their lives and work to Christ. The Vatican officially adopted the first known recognition of All Saints Day in the ninth century. This feast first honored martyrs and the only criterion was pure popularity.

Today, the notion of "sainthood" means much more than how well someone was known. As we pray for the saints today, let us think about what the saints mean to us personally. Are there particular saints that you feel an affinity toward? Have you had any special experiences with prayerful intercession of a saint? Are there "modern" people whom we view as "saints"? Let us take some time now to share with one another, our feelings and thoughts about saints, ancient and contemporary.

*(At the conclusion of the sharing, Leader may say: "Thank you for your willingness to listen and share. Now we will recite a litany of the saints together").*

## Recitation: *A Litany of the Saints for Justice*

*The litany is included in the handout for the prayer service. During the Litany, invoke a prayerful mood by lighting incense and/or dimming lights.*

## Closing Prayer

Reader: We mindfully leave today, with a greater sense of gratitude and understanding of the Saints. Let us remember that through our actions, we, too, can model the lives of the saints.

As we return to our daily lives, let us remember,  
"We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
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## Closing Recitation (all repeat, in two groups)

Right: Christ has no body now but yours

Left: No hands, no feet on earth but yours

Right: Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world

Left: Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

~ Saint Teresa of Avila

**Closing Song:** *City of God* (Dan Schutte, Oregon Catholic Press, 1981) or another appropriate song

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**All:** *Amen*

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## Shared Reflection

### Recitation: *A Litany of the Saints for Justice*

<b>Leader:</b>	Lord, have mercy.	<b>All:</b> <i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Christ, have mercy.	<b>All:</b> <i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Lord, have mercy.	<b>All:</b> <i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Mary and Joseph,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Angels and archangels,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Simon Peter and James, son of Zebedee,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Bartholomew and John,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Matthew and Philip,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Simon the Zealot,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Thomas and Thaddeus,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Andrew and James, son of Alphaeus,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	All you disciples of Jesus,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Joshua, Job and Samuel,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Moses and Josea,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Solomon and Nehemiah,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	All you holy men of the bible,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Ezra and Esther,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Ruth and Elizabeth,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Clare and Catherine,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Mary Magdalene and Veronica,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Agatha and Lucy,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Agnes and Cecilia,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	Catherine and Anastasia,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>
<b>Leader:</b>	All you wondrous and holy women,	<b>All:</b> <i>pray for us.</i>

# All Saint's Day – Justice & Solidarity

Handout

**Leader:** Isaiah and Jeremiah, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Ezekiel and Daniel, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Hosea and Amos, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Jonah and Micah, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Habakkuk and Haggai, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Zechariah, and Malachi, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Joel, Nahum and Nehemiah, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** All you sacred men, **All:** *pray for us.*

**Leader:** Saints Scholastica and Benedict, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Saints Ambrose and Augustine, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Saints Martin and Gregory, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Saints Francis, and Dominic, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** Saints Francis Xavier and Ignatius, **All:** *pray for us.*  
**Leader:** All you holy men and women, **All:** *pray for us.*

**Leader:** Our Father, **All:** *hear us.*  
**Leader:** Jesus, Son of God, **All:** *hear us.*  
**Leader:** Blessed Virgin Mary, **All:** *hear us.*  
**Leader:** O Holy Spirit, **All:** *hear us.*

**Leader:** Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Pope John Paul II,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Mother Theresa of Calcutta, tireless worker for the poor,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Monsignor Juan Gerardi, defender of Guatemalan human rights,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Padre Gustavo Gutiérrez, advocate for the poor and marginalized,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Sister Helen Prejean, advocate for abolishing the death penalty,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Dolores Huerta, advocate for farmworkers,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Wangari Maathai, political and environmental activist,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** For all you pilgrims of peace and justice,  
**All:** *we pray for the continuation of your work.*

**Leader:** Through compassion,  
**Leader:** Through happiness,  
**Leader:** Through peace,  
**Leader:** Through working for justice,  
**Leader:** Through feeding the hungry,  
**Leader:** Through clothing the naked,  
**Leader:** Through all ways of solidarity in Christ,  
**All:** *may we be images of you, O God.*  
**All:** *may we be images of you, O God.*  
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**All:** *may we be images of you, O God.*  
**All:** *may we be images of you, O God.*  
**All:** *may we be images of you, O God.*  
**All:** *may we achieve them with grace and Your mercy.*

**Leader:** For the pursuit of courage and knowledge,  
**Leader:** For the gifts of generosity and liberality,  
**Leader:** For the pursuit of patience, through peace,  
**Leader:** For diligence, and an active conscience,  
**Leader:** For the gift of perpetual faith,  
**Leader:** For hope in a struggling world,  
**Leader:** For the pursuit of charity, through kindness,  
**Leader:** For humility and humbleness,  
**Leader:** For self-moderation and mindfulness of others' needs,  
**Leader:** For compassion and sympathy without prejudice,  
**Leader:** For justice and equality,  
**Leader:** That we may be blessed with these holy virtues,  
**All:** *we ask your intercession.*  
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**Leader:** For a deeper respect for all life and the sacredness of the human person,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For commitment to community and the common good,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For a deeper commitment to aid the needs of the poor and vulnerable,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For a deeper awakening to our responsibilities in ensuring the rights of all people,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For inspiration to foster a deeper commitment to justice in our governments and the systems in which we live,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For economic justice throughout our world,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For good stewardship of God's creation,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For the promotion of peace and disarmament,  
**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For active and thoughtful participation of all people,

**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For lives lived in solidarity with the poor,

**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** For all these principles of our Catholic Social Tradition,

**All:** *we pray for the dedication of society and ourselves.*

**Leader:** Lord be with us,

**All:** *Lord be with us.*

**Leader:** Christ be with us,

**All:** *Christ be with us.*

**Leader:** Lord be with us,

**All:** *Lord be with us.*

**Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God,

**All:** *pray for us.*

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** We mindfully leave today, with a greater sense of gratitude and understanding of the Saints. Let us remember that through our actions, we, too, can model the lives of the saints. As we return to our daily lives, let us remember,

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