

## ALL SOULS' DAY - Monday 2nd November

O eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: Give, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth thy light and thy peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### LOCKDOWN II ?

With speculation that a second national lockdown could be announced we want to be better prepared. If you would like to be kept in touch should corporate worship be banned, please ensure Trevor has your details: preferably an email address but otherwise your postal address. Contact him via: warden@st-thomas-lewes.org.uk or by phone to 01273 937678.

### BLACK GLOSS PAINT

If anyone has any black gloss paint, our painter needs a very small quantity to repair the outside noticeboard. Please speak to Trevor if you can help.

### CHRISTMAS

At its next meeting, the PCC will discuss arrangements for Christmas services.

### FACE MASKS

Face coverings are now mandatory in churches and should be worn at all times except when receiving Communion, apart from those who have any of the exemptions.

### CLIFFE HALL

The Hall toilets are now usable. Please speak to the sidesman for access. Sadly, still no coffee after church.

### PRAYERS

We pray for all those who cannot be with us this morning, including: Pam Swabey, Joan Bishop, Ken Allbon, Jean Burges, Susan Larkin and Rosemary Burnett; and all those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Parish prayer requests may be left in the offertory plate.



### WEEKDAY CLEAN

We need some more volunteers to help with weekday Covid cleaning; it takes about 20 minutes. If you can help, even occasionally, please let Trevor know.

### EVENING PRAYER

A reminder that Evening Prayer will be said tonight at 6pm. All welcome.

### CARING & SHARING

Don't forget our yellow Caring and Sharing collection box on a Sunday, helping street children in Olinda, Brazil through the My Father's House project there.

### NOTICES

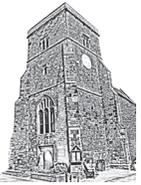
If you have a notice for this weekly Pew Sheet, please let Trevor have it by 9am on Friday.

PLEASE KEEP  
THIS SHEET  
FOR REFERENCE.

The Parish Church of  
**St Thomas à Becket**  
Cliffe High Street, Lewes



Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020  
ALL SAINTS' DAY



Welcome to our service of Holy Communion. Today's Celebrant and preacher is our Associate Vicar, Fr Herbert Bennett.

A reminder that Communion is in one kind only, the host, received in silence while standing at the foot of the chancel steps.

### The Collect

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### For the Epistle - Revelation 7.2-12

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth, and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed; and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand, of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand.  
Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders, and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen; Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.



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## SERMON

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020  
**ALL SAINTS' DAY**

### THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 5.1-12

JESUS, seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain; and when he was set, his disciples came unto him. And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure

in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

**I**N LEWES we are blessed with being surrounded by the South Downs and upon these you might easily feel at peace with the world and being near to God, our creator. In the Bible, mountains (if not the Downs!), feature quite a lot really and at very important points where God chooses to reveal something of Himself to us, His created, and where His presence almost feels tangible.

In the Old Testament Moses receives the Ten Commandments on a mountain. In the New Testament there is the Temple Mount which sacred site is shared by Christians, Jews and Muslims. Then there is the Mount of Transfiguration, the Mount of Olives where Jesus ascends into Heaven and today, in our gospel reading from St Matthew, we have the mount, or Sermon on the Mount, from where the Beatitudes are preached.

Indeed these mountains are places where we feel connected to God's presence and where we might feel something of a glimpse into Heaven. That is perhaps a most appropriate place to focus upon for All Saints this Sunday, as we remember with thanksgiving all whose lives have shown the grace of God at work to reveal His light to this world. Then with All Souls day tomorrow when we remember more personally, with thanksgiving, all our loved ones departed, whom we still love. That brings to mind that beautiful musical piece of Leider- Schubert's 'Litanei for the feast of All Souls', which I love to sing and look forward very much to singing for you when life permits.

So the context of our gospel reading today is with Jesus, there on the mount teaching His disciples about the kingdom of heaven, with the crowd of people in front of them, so that they, the disciples, might in turn teach the people by God's given authority and with the

risen Christ. In His teaching Jesus wishes to show that this compares with the law in the Old Testament when God gave His covenant to the people of Israel. Just as Moses received the law from God on the mountain in the Old Testament, so the disciples receive the new law of God's kingdom on a mountain from Jesus.

The Beatitudes reveal what the kingdom of God is like and their commandments show the life that should be followed by all who seek to be God's people and to be part of that kingdom. The reality of these new laws is in direct contrast to the ways of the world, for the poor (not the rich), the mourners (not those who rejoice) shall be among them in that kingdom. So let us look at these new qualities of the kingdom of heaven.

The verses all take the same pattern of beginning with 'blessed are.' which refers to those who shall be partakers of Gods kingdom. With the values of this world reversed under God's laws we see a foretaste of the heavenly glory of God's kingdom.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. The term 'poor in spirit' was used in the Old Testament to refer to those who were pious, as Isaiah says 'The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek or poor'. To these Jesus promises the kingdom of heaven, the greatest possession of all when he says 'blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth'.

Similarly, 'blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted' is echoed again in Isaiah 'to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...to comfort all that mourn'. Then with the Beatitude 'blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled' this refers to prayer, for fasting is a form of prayer and to pray for righteousness means to seek obedience

to God's will and to follow His kingdom. Those who pray and wish for this shall be satisfied with their prayer answered.

With regard to mercy, that tender characteristic of God, we are told 'blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy', that is, those who forgive others shall receive forgiveness for themselves from God for their own sins. Then, 'blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. In the Old Testament the heart was thought to be the centre of thought and intention so those who seek God with intention shall see Him in a blessed life.

As for the peacemakers we are told that 'they shall be called the children of God', that is Sons of God or like God is pursuing that quality in life. And for those who are in pursuit of God in righteousness they may befall persecution for their obedience and loyalty but will inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Righteousness is in many ways a key characteristic of god's kingdom and for emulating the values of the kingdom of heaven. In essence that presents the contrast between this world and heaven, between the unrighteous world which rebels against God and persecutes the church and the righteous world which is the body of God's people that is called to be the salt and light to the world. That is the calling for each and every one of us to be God's light in this His world to His glory.

The Beatitudes present the contrast between this world, created by God and redeemed in Christ, and the heavenly realm of the kingdom of God which is to come. So on this All Saints Sunday let us remember that great cloud of witnesses, those many saints, great and small, who have made the world a better place by their faithful and prayerful service whom through has shone the glory of God and to us all. Amen.