

Saint John the Evangelist, Caterham Valley
Service for All Souls Day - 2nd November 2020

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

All

Opening Scripture

John 11.25

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.'

Opening Prayer

God of time and space,
in your hands you hold all that you have made.
You breathe life into all creation;
and without you there is no life,
for our lives are hidden in you.
As we gather to remember those we have loved and still love -
people of your creating and saving,
help us to believe that none are forgotten by you,
and grant us the comfort of your peace;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A Prayer of Penitence

As we come into God's presence
we are conscious that sometimes we have failed to live up to
his commandment of love.
So let us now confess our failures to him.

For the hurt we have done in the past
to those for whom Christ died
we seek forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

All

For the hurt we do now
which obscures the glory of the risen Lord
we seek forgiveness.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

All

For the sins of the Church and of the world,
which hinder the future Christ promised,
and for our share in them,
we seek forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The minister declares God's forgiveness

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Blessed is the Lord,

All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

All and in our song will we praise our God.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The departed are at peace with God

Wisdom 3.1-9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

Your word is a lamp to our feet

All and a light to our path.

A reading from the gospel of John

Jesus prepares an eternal home for us

John 14.1-6, 27

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

Your word is a lamp to our feet

All **and a light to our path.**

The Commemoration of the Departed

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power.

All **For you have created all things,
and by your will they have their being.**

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation.

All **You have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God,
and they will reign with you on earth.**

We hold a time of silence as we remember those we love who are now in God's presence

This is the will of him that sent me,
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,
All **and I will raise them up at the last day.**

Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but for those also whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ
from the dead,
so may we trust your love
to give eternal life to all who believe in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Lighting of the Candles

We light a candle of remembrance in church, and light candles at home, for all those we have remembered, and also for those who have no-one to remember them.

Prayer of Faith

When the candles have been lit this prayer is said

Eternal God, you hold the keys of life and death,
and through the death of Jesus Christ,
you have opened the gates of glory.

Keep those we have remembered in your eternal care,
call them to new life in you,
and bring them to the feast of your new creation.

Deliver us from fear and doubt
and strengthen us in the faith that brings us to salvation
and to your eternal presence.

Hear us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who died and rose for all,
and who lives now, our great high priest.
To him and to you with the Holy Spirit
be glory and praise for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us in your Kingdom
and teach us to pray:

All **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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God,
you sustain and renew all that you have made.
We thank you for the gift of life
and the grace of new life in Jesus Christ, your Son.
As we remember those who have gone before us,
look with mercy on those whom we have named before you,
on all those whom we love,
and on those who are known to you alone.
Grant us grace to remember what lies ahead
and so to live and trust in you
that we may come at the last
to share with them
the joy of your eternal kingdom.
For the hope that you have laid before us,
we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

May the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you.

May he give light to guide you,
courage to support you,
and love to unite you,
now and always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace,
and the God of peace go with you.

All **Thanks be to God.**