

Scripture Reflections Communion of Saints



Reflection One

Scripture Reading

"When he 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.'" (Matthew 5:1-3)

Reflection

The Beatitudes are a window through which we can see who Jesus is. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, they "depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity." All Christians aspire to the actions and attitudes proclaimed in the Beatitudes. The holy people who are a part of the Communion of Saints are examples of what it means to live the Beatitudes. How appropriate that the Gospel for the celebration of the Feast of All Saints is the beatitudes.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you know our deepest longings. You know our desire to be happy. Help us to seek you, and to live your Gospel. Amen.

Reflection Two

Scripture Reading

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4)

Reflection

This Scripture verse uses what scholars call the "theological passive voice." God is the subject who is doing the action-- *They will be comforted* means that God will comfort them, God alone will satisfy.

Prayer

Holy God, you are always with us, through good times, and bad. You are by our side, comforting us. Thank you. Amen.

Reflection Three

Scripture Reading

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land." (Matthew 5:5)

Reflection

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? Be meek and inherit some land! The land spoken of here is the Kingdom of God. Those who are humble, those who put God first, will inherit his Kingdom.

Prayer

Wondrous God, you have shown us many blessings, you have given us many gifts. May our eyes always be on you, not on ourselves. May we build your Kingdom here on earth, today. Amen.

Reflection Four

Scripture Reading

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." (Matthew 5:6)

Reflection

How hungry and thirsty are you for God's life? This verse instructs us that God will satisfy those whose behavior and conduct shows that we truly want our lives to conform to God's life.

Prayer

O God, make me hunger and thirst for you. Help me seek you, and grow closer to you in the choices I make everyday. I want my attitudes and actions to show you to the world. Amen.

Reflection Five

Scripture Reading

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

Reflection

Mercy. If the news headlines are any indication, our world is in need of mercy. And God is waiting to show us mercy. Are we merciful?

Prayer

Merciful God, bless my efforts today to show mercy to those around me. Amen.

Reflection Six

Scripture Reading

"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:8-9)

Reflection

It is hard to see out of a dirty window. Things are not so clear. It is hard to see God's kingdom when our hearts aren't clean. Thus the directive: have a clean heart; it will be that much easier to see God! And God invites peacemakers into the most intimate of relationships—children of God!

Prayer

Instill a clean heart in us, O God, that we may see you clearly. Give us a spirit of peace, that we may be your children. Amen.

Reflection Seven

Scripture Reading

"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. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12)

Reflection

Someone once said that being Christian is not a happiness capsule. In other words, the warm and fuzzy feelings aren't always going to be there. As this Scripture infers, following Jesus Christ can be a tough road to follow. But the rewards—in heaven no less—are great!

Prayer

Holy God, help us be strong when we are tempted by those in this world who do not love you. Help us always stand up for our faith, regardless of the consequences. We love you. Amen.