

# week 1 all saints sunday

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“Let me neither ignore my pain, pretending all is okay when it isn’t, nor coddle and magnify my pain so that I dull my capacity to experience all that remains good in this life.”

Every Moment Holy, “A Liturgy for Joy and Sorrow”



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“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.” (v. 3 and 4)

-matthew 5:1-12

# november 5th

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## For Reflection & Discussion:

The beatitudes reflect the Jewish use and setting: wisdom and prophecy. In the wisdom setting beatitudes declare the blessings of those in fortunate circumstances, based on observation and experience, and declare their present reward and happiness. When used as prophecy, beatitudes declare present and future blessings to those who are presently in dire circumstances but who will be vindicated at the coming of God's kingdom.

The beatitudes are not an imperative or exhortation, but rather an indicative. They declare blessedness to those committed to the future reality of the kingdom of God – even as they imply an imperative in the call to decision/commitment. Like the prophetic word of Scripture, the beatitudes affect what it says, bringing into being what it states. They are not the entrance requirements, they are declarations about those who believe despite what they see.

1. How easy or difficult is it to embrace this reading, and this reality for your life? What questions remain?
  
2. As we approach All Saints Day, can you think of a story of a loved one in the “church triumphant” who knew and lived as if this promise were true?

## practice:

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Contact a friend who is grieving the death of a loved one. How might you share in this reality with them both with words and tangible signs of love, concern, and care?