

# all the saints

The raising of Lazarus (John 11:42-44) is the last of the "seven signs" in the Gospel of John, which point to the reality of who Jesus is: he who controls even death and life. Lazarus was a friend of Jesus, and so are his sisters Mary and Martha of Bethany. When Lazarus, Jesus' friend, dies, we see Jesus at his most human, when he weeps in mourning - even though he already knows he's going to raise him to life again in a few moments.

The Wisdom of Solomon (Wisdom 3:1-9, Track 1) is a book that is not found in the body of Protestant Bibles, but has traditionally held a secondary, in more catholic traditions. It was written in Greek during the 1st or 2nd century BCE, and although attributed to King Solomon, no one today, and very few in the ancient world, consider him to have actually authored it. This passage speaks of how those who have died in communion with God, are at peace with God and "abide with God in love."

The lesson from Isaiah (Isaiah 25:6-9) is one of the great consummate images of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Bible. Here, as in other places, it is pictured as a great feast where the people of God dine on the finest of foods in the presence of God. This passage is read at many funerals.

John, the author of the Book of Revelation (Revelation 21:1-6a), challenges the notion that when we die we just leave earth for a new place. In Revelation earth isn't abandoned, it is made new - language which strongly evokes the notion of resurrection. This newness isn't a mere facelift though, for when all things are made new there is no more death, mourning or crying.

## Prayer

O God, you are the source of all life, you make all things new, and you bind us all - the living and the dead - into one great family. Help us in this life, and bring us one day to the fullness of your kingdom with you and all those we we love. Amen.

## On the way to "soccer practice"...

All Saint's Day is all about how our God transcends life and death. In life we are with God. And in death we are with God. And, because of this we aren't as removed from those we love who have died as we usually think. We are all, the living and the dead, with God. Take sometime this All Saint's Day to talk about the bonds of God's love which hold us all together.

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