**THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, STRETFORD**



**All Souls-tide**

**Memorial Service**

**Monday 2nd November, 2015, 7:30pm**

***Welcome and Introduction***

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

We meet this day to remember those close to us who have died, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our praises to the Father.

I have set the Lord always before me:

**He is at my right hand; I shall not fall.**

Show us your mercy, O God,

**And grant us your salvation**

For with you is the well of life

**And in your light shall we see light.**

**Hymn**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,

Naught be all else to me save that thou art;

Thou my best thought in the day and the night,

Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;

Thou my great Father, and I thy true son;

Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breast plate, my sword for the fight,

Be thou my armour, and be thou my might,

Be thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower,

Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,

Thou mine inheritance through all my days;

Thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,

High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when battle is done,

Grant heaven’s joys to me, O bright heaven’s sun;

Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,

Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***Prayers of Penitence***

God has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. As we acknowledge our human frailty, we call to mind our sins of word, deed and omission, and confess them before God our Father.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken-hearted.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and the divided.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The Collect***

Let us pray for the peace and well-being of the whole Church:

Everlasting God, our maker and redeemer,

grant us, with all the faithful departed,

the sure benefits of your Son’s saving passion

and glorious resurrection,

that, in the last day,

when you gather up all things in Christ,

we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**First reading:** Lamentations 3.22-26, 31-33

**Hymn**

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
Even for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

**Second Reading:** *Ephesians 3:14-19*

**Homily**

***Commemoration of the Faithful Departed***

*The Easter Candle is lit*

We light this candle to remind us that when God the Father raised Jesus our Saviour from the dead he defeated the power of death, and his light shines in the midst of the darkness of this world.

**Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray,**

**and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,**

**for the love of your Son, our Saviour,**

**Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*As the names of the departed are read out you are invited to come forward and to light a candle in memory of your loved one and place it on the cross, before the book of remembrance laid on the altar.*

This is the will of him that sent me,

that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,

**and I will raise them up at the last day.**

Lord God, creator of all,

you have made us creatures of this earth,

but have also promised us a share in life eternal.

According to your promises,

may all who have died in the peace of Christ

come with your saints to the joys of your kingdom,

where there will be neither sorrow nor pain,

but life everlasting.

**Alleluia. Amen.**

Hear us, O merciful Father,

as we remember in love

those whom we have placed in your hands.

Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of your own fold,

lambs of your own flock,

sinners of your own redeeming.

Enfold them in the arms of your mercy,

in the blessed rest of everlasting peace,

and in the glorious company of the saints in light.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

How deep the Father’s love for us,

How vast beyond all measure,

That He should give His only Son

To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss

The Father turns His face away,

As wounds which mar the Chosen One

Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,

My sin upon His shoulders;

Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice

Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there

Until it was accomplished;

His dying breath has brought me life

I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,

No gifts, no power, no wisdom;

But I will boast in Jesus Christ,

His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer;

But this I know with all my heart

His wounds have paid my ransom.

***Prayers of Intercession***

Let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Jesus, bread from heaven,

you satisfy the hungry with good things:

grant us a share with all the faithful departed

in the banquet of your kingdom.

Hear us, risen Lord,

**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, the light of the world,

you gave the man born blind the gift of sight:

open the eye of faith

and bring us from darkness

to your eternal light and glory.

Hear us, risen Lord,

**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, Son of the living God,

you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life:

raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.

Hear us, risen Lord,

**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, crucified Saviour,

in your dying you entrusted each to the other,

Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple:

sustain and comfort all who mourn.

Hear us, risen Lord,

**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, our way and truth and life,

you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith:

reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.

Hear us, risen Lord,

**our resurrection and our life.**

May God in his infinite love and mercy

bring the whole Church,

living and departed in the Lord Jesus,

to a joyful resurrection

and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

**Amen.**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

**Hymn**

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
The darkness falls at Thy behest;  
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,  
While earth rolls onward into light,  
Through all the world her watch is keeping,  
And rests not now by day or night.

As o’er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
Our brethren ’neath the western sky,  
And hour by hour fresh lips are making  
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,  
Like earth’s proud empires, pass away:  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,  
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

***The Blessing***

May God give you

his comfort and his peace,

his light and his joy,

in this world and the next;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*At the end of the service the church lights are put out, leaving the candles to shine in the darkness.*

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**You are warmly invited to join us in the hall for refreshments.**



