

All Saints Table Prayers



Use the following table prayer at mealtime for eight days leading up to or following the celebration of All Saints Day on November 1.

Day One

Reader One

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

Reader Two

The poor in spirit know that everything is a gift from God. They know that they are dependent on God, not material possessions, for their security. They are not rugged individuals who claim that they don't need anybody. They receive God into their lives by graciously accepting the help of others.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of poverty in spirit, which we have received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

by evil. They who cannot or will not mourn shield themselves from the suffering in our world and pretend it's not there. They shut off their emotions, so that they will not have to feel the pain, and they believe that if there is no suffering then there is no reason for them to act on behalf of those who suffer. Those who mourn feel their own pain and the pain of others, and work to alleviate that pain. The depths of pain can be the pathway to great peace and joy if one is open to the gift of mourning.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of mourning, which we have received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Two

Reader One

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Reader Two

Those who mourn are aware that something is wrong. Their mourning motivates them to relieve the suffering in the world and in themselves caused

Day Three

Reader One

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Reader Two

The meek embrace the gift of physical powerlessness. They have the courage to act without the false security of weapons. They are careful to unleash their anger at proper times and in

proper ways. They allow God to control their emotions rather than allowing their emotions to control themselves. They do not seek to get their way by overpowering others. They are patient. They do not jump to quick solutions to problems; rather, they will take time to understand before speaking and acting.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of meekness, which we have received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Four

Reader One

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Reader Two

They who hunger and thirst for righteousness want goodness and justice, especially for the poor, more than anything. They feel as though they will die without it. They want their relationship with God to be right, they want human relationships to be right, and they want all the relationships of creation to be right. Whether they succeed or not in getting these relationships right is not the point, they are blessed because they want it bad, and they work for it.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of hungering and thirsting for righteousness, which we have received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Five

Reader One

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Reader Two

The merciful are those who refuse to perpetuate a cycle of violence. We are merciful when we have a right to punish another person and we choose not to exercise that right. Merciful people act with kindness where others might seek revenge. When the merciful call others to responsibility, they do so with kindness and compassion, not with an intention to destroy the offender.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of mercy, which we have received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Six

Reader One

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Reader Two

The pure in heart are motivated by God alone. They give their heart to God and are given the gift of seeing as God sees. They see the sacredness and essential beauty of God's creation. Each person they encounter is seen first and foremost as a beloved child of God. Seeing another person in a negative or judgmental way is a sign that one's heart is not pure, and one's vision of the other's basic goodness is clouded.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of a pure heart, which we have received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Seven

Reader One

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Reader Two

Shalom is the biblical word for peace, but shalom is not passive peace. It means much more than just the absence of conflict. The suffix, “makers”, implies that peace must be constructed actively. One can not say, “I will keep peace by not getting involved.” Involvement is necessary for peacemaking. Peacemakers work actively to bring about the justice for which others hunger and thirst.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of peacemaking, which we have received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Eight

Reader One

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reader Two

Jesus did not come to make life easy for us; he came to invite humanity to greatness. Being blessed by God inevitably will lead to persecution in one way or another. God's gifts to each person are unique and can be easily misunderstood by those who do not

appreciate diversity. We often face criticism when we live according to the gifts God has given us. Suffering persecution for the sake of goodness is one way that we carry the cross of Christ. Our consolation is not in an easy life; our consolation is in the knowledge that we are living for righteousness' sake – we are living for the kingdom of heaven.

Reader Three

Bless us O Lord, and this, your gift of persecution for received from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

