

All Souls Day (Solemnity, November 2nd)

Wisdom 3:1-9—The Souls of the Just

1. Souls: “souls” (Greek *psychē*) of the righteous in the hand of God (3:1)
2. Immortality: their “hope” is full of “immortality” (Greek *athanasia*) (3:4)
3. Temporary Suffering: disciplined “a little” they will receive “great good” (3:5-9)

Psalm 23—The Lord is My Shepherd

1. Shepherd: God is the divine “shepherd” (23:1)
2. Soul: he restores my “soul” (Hebrew *nephesh*; Greek *psyche*) (23:3)
3. Death: the valley of the “shadow of death” (23:4)
4. Temple: for “length of days” (23:6)

Rom 6:3-9—Baptized into His Death

1. Baptism: baptism into Jesus death → participation in his resurrection (6:3-9)

John 6:37-40—Resurrection on the Last Day

1. Coming to Jesus: “all the Father gives me will come to me” (6:37)
2. Losing Salvation: that “I should lose nothing” (6:39)
3. Bodily Resurrection: “but raise it up on the last day” (6:39; not just immortality)
4. Eternal Life: “eternal life” (Greek *zoē aiōnion*) (6:40; cf. Dan 12:1-2)
5. Faith: everyone who “believes” in the Son (6:40)

Living Tradition

St. John Chrysostom: Let us help and commemorate them. If Job’s sons were purified by their father’s sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them. (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on 1 Corinthians* 41.5, cited in CCC 1032)

Catechism: This teaching [on purgatory] is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: “Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their *sin*.” *From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.* (CCC 1032)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (All Souls, November 2nd)

1. What are some practical ways to intercede for the dead on the feast of All Souls and during the month of November?
