

# Liturgical Resources for All Saints Day and All Souls Day

**All Saints Day** is a Principal Feast Day of the Church, taking precedence over any other day or observance. It is one of the four days recommended in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) for Baptism. Traditionally, All Saints Day expresses the intercommunion of the living and the dead in the Body of Christ. Especially remembered are the faithful who died because of their faith.

**All Souls Day** began as an extension of All Saints as a way to remember all the faithfully departed in a community based on the New Testament use of the word "saints" to describe all the people of the Christian community.

In practice many churches combine All Saints and All Souls into one observance. We encourage congregations to observe both All Saints and All Souls.

Additional resources:

Vigil for the Eve of All Saints' Day, **Book of Occasional Services**, p. 106

**Book of Common Prayer**, p. 928

**Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006**, p. 439

**Prayers for an Inclusive Church** (*Church Publishing*), p. 173-175

Litany for All Saints, **The Wideness of God's Mercy-Litanies to Enlarge our Prayer Volume 1**, by Jeffrey W. Rowthorn, p. 138.

Suggestions for the reading of the names/necrology:

- Eucharistic Prayer D; BCP p. 372 (names are inserted in the prayer on p. 375).
- The Taizé chant "Jesus Remember Me" can be sung softly as names are read.
- Toll hand bell as names are read
- Include Saints ancient and modern from a variety of cultures and races Use several voices to read the names.
- Hymn 560 from the 1982 Hymnal may be sung during the necrology

Other suggestions:

- Heirloom area - people bring a small heirloom of their loved one and put it on a table with a candle during the service.
- Evensong - process to the Memorial Garden with torches for light. Names are read here. People are invited to add other names. End with Easter Acclamation.

## All Hallow's Eve

- The **Book of Occasional Services** has an All Hallow's Eve Service on p. 108.
- Encourage the Sunday School children to dress up as a Bible Character and at coffee hour have the children explain who they are and why the person is significant in the Bible.

<http://www.churchyear.net/allsaints.html>

<http://www.churchyear.net/hallowsprayers.html>

**A Service of Light** from Duke Divinity <http://www.chapel.duke.edu/documents/AllHallows2009.pdf>

For additional questions or information, please contact Kitty Kawecki at [kkawecki@dioceseofnewark.org](mailto:kkawecki@dioceseofnewark.org)