MORNING MEDITATION
ALL SOULS DAY

Keep your mind and heart clean and pure and you will find peace and serenity.

Our love and service and prayer are our blessing for those who have gone before us and their love and life their blessing for us who are still on the journey.

Wisdom 3:1-9

This excerpt from the Book of Wisdom reminds US that those whom we remember in prayer today are in the hands of God. The quality of their future depends on how they have lived their lives and not on their accomplishments. But they are in the hands of a loving God. They have entered into a new life with God.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
He refreshes my soul.

Romans 6:3-9

Paul reminds us that the life we long to live has already begun in our baptism. In baptism, we are immersed into the death and resurrection of Jesus…we die with him so as to rise to a new life with him…. we walk in the newness of life with him. To walk with Christ means to emulate his character, his virtues, his lifestyle…to live the way he lived and die the way he died, giving himself totally in love. Paul calls us today to reflect on how we have been walking with Christ.

John 6:37-40

Jesus had fed five thousand men with five loaves and a couple of fish. He, then, invited them to believe in him and in believing, have eternal life. He said to them that it was God's will that all should inherit eternal life. He affirmed that it was to do God's will that he came from heaven; that it was God's will that he should not lose anything that had been given to him; that it was God's will that all who believe in him should have eternal life. Believers in Jesus are offered a share in eternal life.

Saint of the Day, November 2 - All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is dedicated to prayers for the dead. Many western churches annually observe All Souls' Day on November 2 and many eastern churches celebrate it prior to Lent and the day before Pentecost. Many Christians visit cemeteries where their loved ones are buried. Some cemeteries offer candles to be placed on these graves. The candles are blessed and marked with the names of the deceased to be placed at the designated grave sites. The Catholic Church remembers deceased members of the congregation on this day.

All Souls' Day was first instituted at the monastery in Cluny in 993 CE and quickly spread throughout the Christian world. People held festivals for the dead long before Christianity. It was Saint Odilo, the abbot of Cluny in France, who in the 10th century, proposed that the day after All Saints' Day be set aside to honor all the departed and not just recognized as saints. Although All Souls' Day is observed informally by some Protestants, it is primarily a Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox holy day.

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