# Reading for the
# Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
## 2nd November 2026

**First reading**

**Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

**'The Lord will swallow up death for ever.'**

On that day:
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food.
And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
He will swallow up death for ever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 27(26):1. 4. 7, 8c, 9a. 13-14. ℟1a or 13**

*The* Lord *is my light and my salvation.*
*or:*
*I believe I shall see the* Lord's *goodness in the land of the living.*
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread?
There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord, to enquire at his temple.
O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer me.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.
I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

**Second reading** **Romans 5:5-11**

**'We have been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.'**

Brothers and Sisters: Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Cf. Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia.
I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.
Alleluia.

**Gospel**

**Matthew 11:25-30**

**'I am gentle and lowly in heart.'**

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

**Short reflection on the reading for today**

Today we are remembering those we have known and loved — family members and good friends. Indeed, the whole month of November is a time when we remember our dead in a special way. As Christians, our remembering of those who have died is always a prayerful remembering. We remember them before the Lord. Remembering our departed loved ones before the Lord, praying for them, is one of the ways we give expression to our ongoing communion with them in the Lord. We believe that they are with the Lord, and that the Lord is also with us in this life. It is that shared relationship with the Lord which keeps us in communion with our loved ones who have died. In praying for our loved one, we ask the Lord to bring them to the fullness of life, as he brought the widow's son to life in today's gospel. We also pray in thanksgiving for them, thanking God for the gift of their lives and for all the ways the Lord blessed us through them. Today, we entrust our loved ones who have died to God. As "God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us," we pray that they would experience that love to the full.