

# All Hallows Contemplation

## Introduction to service

LA: We give thanks for all the saints, Signs of hope for us in a time when hope is often difficult to discern.

We give thanks for the communion of saints, Our living body, hope in the flesh our communities of faith. These support us when we lag behind, When we struggle to be present to those who suffer, When we let go of our neighbours hand.

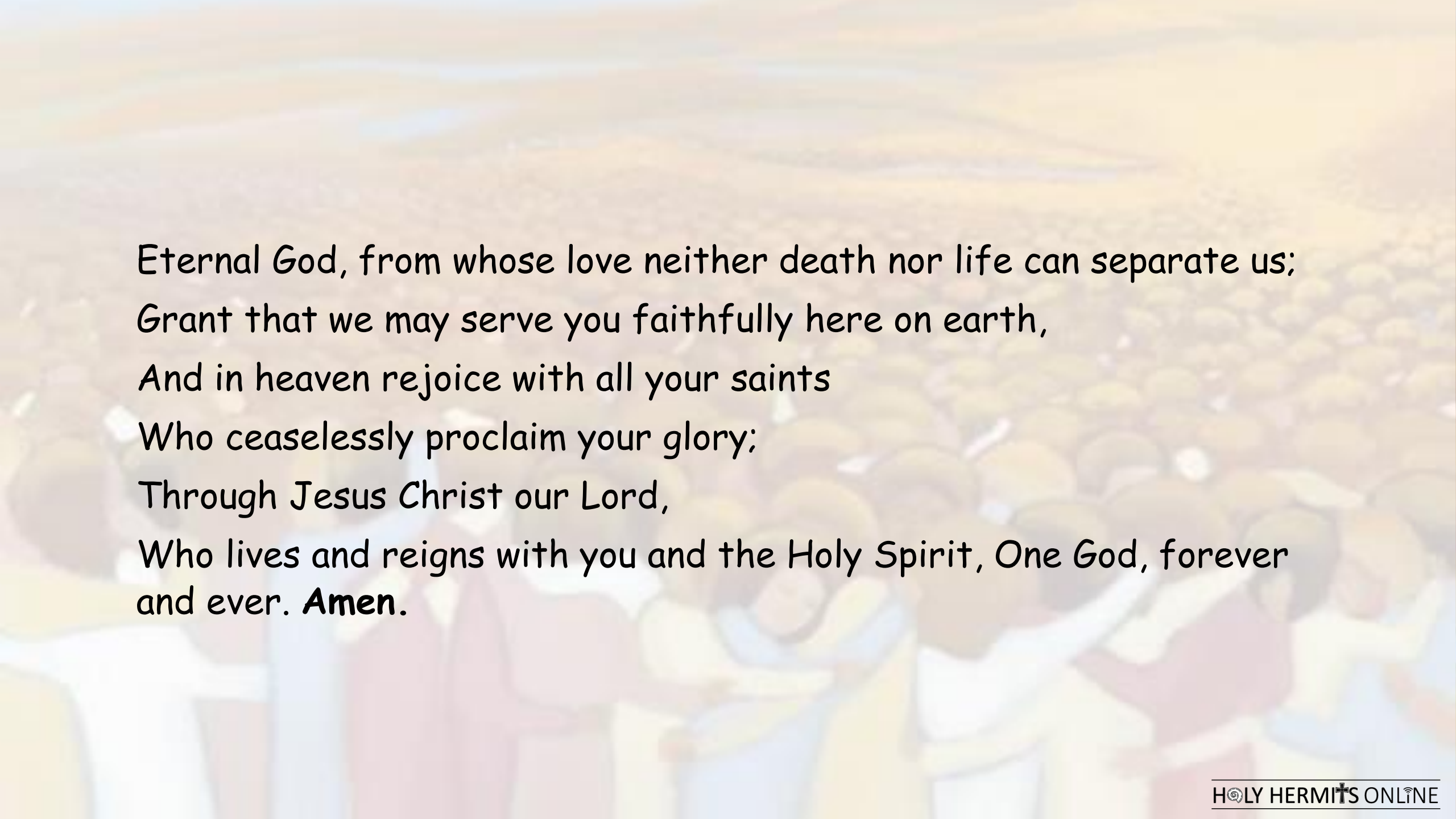
We give thanks for the saints that surround us, For our own call to sainthood, we give thanks for all the saints, Signs of hope for us in a time when hope is often difficult to discern.

We give thanks for the saints that surround us, for our own call to sainthood, That challenge of baptism, That creative, disruptive grace, That instinctive turning toward the human family. We are images of each other, We are a ruckus chorus Announcing the kingdom of God: Hear it and know It calls us home.

## Gathering prayer

Holy Being, we gather in your presence to celebrate your goodness,  
the goodness we have seen in the dawning of a new day,  
the goodness we trust in One who faced death with the dawn of a  
resurrected life,  
the goodness we remember in those who live in the eternal dawn of  
your presence.

So we open our lives to a new way of life with you and lift all our  
prayers to celebrate your eternal goodness this day and evermore.  
**Amen.**



Eternal God, from whose love neither death nor life can separate us;  
Grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth,  
And in heaven rejoice with all your saints  
Who ceaselessly proclaim your glory;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever  
and ever. **Amen.**



## Collect Prayer

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical Body of your Son:  
Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A large crowd of people is gathered in a field, many with their arms raised in praise. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the vastness of the gathering. The people are dressed in casual clothing, and the overall atmosphere is one of joy and celebration. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky.

Song - I sing a song of the Saints  
<https://youtu.be/Ky4e2s3HeVk>

Holy Being, who called all us into life,  
from the first Adam and Eve to the babies born around the world this day,  
you have laboured and we have been born;  
holy is your name in all the earth.

We thank you this day for all who have shown us your way.  
Abraham and Sarah heard your call and ventured new places, even when they  
were old. We listen for your call today. (Pause)

Miriam and Moses danced and led your people from suffering toward a new  
promise. We await a vision of your burning fire today. (Pause)

Deborah fought, Samuel prayed and they led in different ways. We are preparing  
to lead this day. (Pause)

David and Bathsheba sinned and were forgiven. We confess our sin and long for your grace today. (Pause)

Amos spoke and Esther stood tall for the sake of justice. We open ourselves to your strength today. (Pause)

Mother Mary and Brother Jesus accepted your call. We attend to your word this day. (Pause)

Peter and Paul, Magdalene and Lydia, and saints through the ages picked up their cross. We pray that we might faithfully follow today. (Pause)

Holy Being, who called us to into life through the saints in our lives, be born anew to us, that we might serve all your saints; the hungry and thirsty, the sick and imprisoned, the naked and forgotten to honour to your holy name in all the earth. Amen.



## Scripture

The Wisdom of Solomon says: "the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones."

Isaiah says: "Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth."

The Psalmist proclaims: "They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation."

Revelation echoing Isaiah declares: "he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

## A Litany of Praise for the God of All the Saints

Gracious God, you are to be praised for the women and men whose faithful witness to your love inspires each generation of your people.

**Mindful of all those who have gone on ahead of us, teach us to follow their example:**

To feed the poor; to support and comfort those who mourn;  
to cherish and learn from the merciful; to be humbled by, and stand with, the peacemakers.

Let us clearly recognize what it means to be called the children of God, and may we know we are to be your saints.

**Neither by our own choosing nor in our own strength, but simply by the call of Christ Jesus our Saviour.**

Loving God, the generations rise and pass away before you. R: You are the strength of those who labour; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints.

We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you, whose names we remember before you now.  
(we say aloud or in our hearts the names of those we love)

Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have striven to do your holy will.

We bless you for their lives and love, and rejoice for them that "all is well, and all manner of things will be well." Amen.



# Lectio Divina for the Solemnity of All Saints

We begin our prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Reading (Lectio) Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks Be to God.***



## Meditation (Meditatio)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

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**Prayer (Oratio)** Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Contemplation (Contemplatio) <https://youtu.be/BTO7-Jarl-E>

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

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

When have I put my trust in the things of this world instead of in God?

How can I live with greater simplicity and generosity?

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,/ for they will be satisfied.

For what do I hunger? How does God satisfy those hungers?

Blessed are the merciful,/ for they will be shown mercy.

From whom do I need to ask forgiveness?

Whom do I need to forgive?


### Closing Prayer:

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.  
For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place?

One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior.  
Such is the race that seeks him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.  
(From Psalm 24)



Psalm 24  
<https://youtu.be/FsOZ3UsUbNA>



A large crowd of people is gathered in a field, with a river visible in the background. The scene is depicted in a soft, painterly style with warm, golden-brown tones. The people are shown from behind, looking towards the river. The text "Thanksgiving prayers" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Thanksgiving prayers

O Cosmic Christ,  
in you and through you and for you,  
all things were created;  
in you all things hold together  
and have their being.

Through Teilhard de Chardin,  
scientist of the cosmos,  
you imagined a new heaven and a new earth.

Through Teresa of Avila,  
charismatic leader,  
you inspired a church of courage and wisdom.

Through Mahatma Gandhi, great soul,  
you became nonviolent in the struggle for justice.

Through Catherine of Siena, fearless visionary,  
you forged a new path for women.

Through Meister Eckhart, creative mystic,  
you refused to abandon the inner light.

Through Hildegard of Bingen, greenness of God,  
you poured out juicy, rich grace on all creation.

Through Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
drum major of freedom,  
you shattered racial barriers and freed dreamers to dream.

Through Anne Frank,  
writer and witness,  
**you preserved goodness in the midst of great evil.**

Through Cesar Chavez,  
noble farmworker,  
**you transformed the dignity of human labour.**

Through Harriet Tubman,  
prophet and pilgrim,  
**you led the captives into freedom.**

Through Vincent Van Gogh,  
artist of light,  
**you revealed the sacredness in sunflowers and in starry nights.**



Through Thea Bowman,  
healer songbird,  
you danced the African-American culture into the Church.

Through Pope John XXIII,  
window to the world,  
you awakened awareness to the signs of the times.

Through Mother Teresa of Calcutta, guardian of the unwanted,  
you enfleshed a reverence for all life.

Through Thomas Merton, universal monk,  
you explored the sanctity of every human search.

Through Mary Magdalene, apostle to the apostles,  
you ordained women to proclaim the good news.

Through Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,  
musician of Holy Mystery,  
you bathed the world in beauty.

Through Julian of Norwich,  
 anchoress and seer,  
you showed the Mother image of God.

Through Dom Bede Griffiths,  
marriage of East and West,  
you unveiled the divine face at the heart of the world.

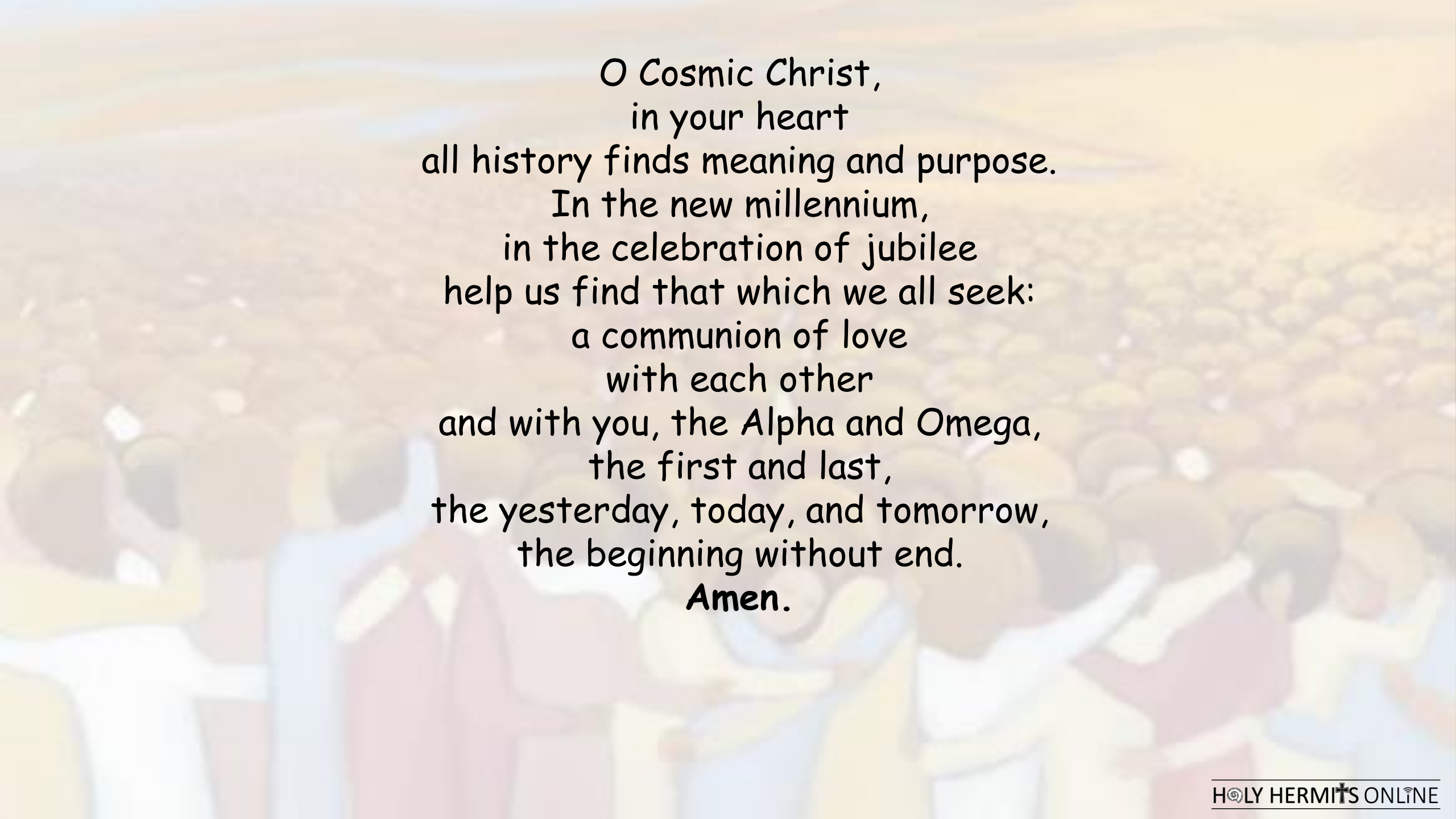
Through Joan of Arc,  
defender and protector,  
you remained true to personal conscience over institutional law.

Through Rumi,  
poet in ecstasy,  
you illuminated friendship as mystical union.

Through Maura Clarke and Companions,  
martyrs of El Salvador,  
you rise again in the hopes of the dispossessed.

Through Rabbi Abraham Heschel,  
Hasidic sage,  
you answered our search for meaning with wonder, pathos for the poor,  
and Sabbath rest.

Through Dorothy Day,  
pillar of the poor,  
you recognized holiness as bread for the hungry.



O Cosmic Christ,  
in your heart  
all history finds meaning and purpose.  
In the new millennium,  
in the celebration of jubilee  
help us find that which we all seek:  
a communion of love  
with each other  
and with you, the Alpha and Omega,  
the first and last,  
the yesterday, today, and tomorrow,  
the beginning without end.  
**Amen.**



## Visio Divina

1.Examine the image slowly, noting the colors, people, places and things. Remain with the image for one to two minutes. If you would like, jot down a few words about the image.

2.Take a second, deeper, look. Where do you see movement in the image? What relationships do you see? Engage your imagination. Where are you in the artwork? What do you see from that perspective? What deeper meaning emerges?


3.Respond to the image with prayer. Did the image remind you of an experience, person or issue for which you'd like to offer thanksgiving or intercession? Offer that prayer to God.

4.Find your quiet center. Breathe deeply. Relax your shoulders, arms and legs. Rest in this quiet. Let God pray in you. God prays beyond words.



Wassily Kandinsky, *All Saints*, 1911





Song- I will rise  
<https://youtu.be/PgZ8wHpETsg>

## Benediction

God's people have celebrated all that God has done,  
from creation,  
to the cross,  
to the saints who have lived among us.  
Now we go from this place  
to the work place,  
the home place,  
the market place;  
every place living as God's own people.

For all the saints, who from their labours rest, let us  
go and labour for the rest of our lives!  
O when the saints, O when the saints; O when the  
saints go marching out,  
Let us go to be part of that number;  
let us be saints when we march out.



Hymn - Oh When the Saints <https://youtu.be/advInJPEbEw>



## Closing Prayers

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you. Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals, Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses Where your name was lifted and adored. We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise: Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, Strong hands and those gnarled with age Holy hands Used as wave offerings across the land. We thank you, God, for hardworking saints; Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted, Head ragged or aproned, blue collared or three-piece-suited. They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come. Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, God.

**May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love. Amen.**

## Blessing

May the light of Jesus shine in us. **Amen.**

May the light of Jesus shine through us to others. **Amen.**

May we all be saints for Jesus. **Amen**

And the Blessing of God Almighty, Holy Trinity Be among us, and remain  
with us always. **Amen.**



You can Give online at  
<https://holyhermits.com.au/give>

Next contemplative service The Quiet Christmas 23rd Dec 6pm

*The Communion of Saints by Ira Thomas*

Closing music:

Chant of the Mystics: Divine Gregorian Chant "O filii et filiae" (2 hours)