

**6 November**

**ALL THE SAINTS OF IRELAND**

**First Reading**

**A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

**(11:2, 12:1-4, 15, 13:1)**

**It was for faith that our ancestors were commended. With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death. Be careful that no one is deprived of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness should begin to grow and make trouble; this can poison a whole community. Continue to love each other like brothers.**

**The word of the Lord**

**Alternative First Reading**

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus**

**(Eccles/Sirach) 44:1-15)**

**Let us praise our ancestors.  
Let us praise illustrious men,  
our ancestors in their successive generations.  
The Lord has created an abundance of glory,  
and displayed his greatness from earliest times.  
Some wielded authority as kings  
and were renowned for their strength;  
others were intelligent advisers  
and uttered prophetic oracles.  
Others directed the people by their advice,**

by their understanding of the popular mind,  
and by the wise words of their teaching;  
others composed musical melodies,  
and set down ballads;  
others were rich and powerful,  
living peacefully in their homes.  
All these were honoured by their contemporaries,  
and were the glory of their day.  
Some of them left a name behind them,  
so that their praises are still sung.  
While others have left no memory,  
and disappeared as though they had not existed,  
they are now as though they had never been,  
and so too, their children after them.  
Here is a list of generous men  
whose good works have not been forgotten.  
In their descendants there remains  
a rich inheritance born of them.  
Their descendants stand by the covenants  
and, thanks to them, so do their children's children.  
Their offspring will last for ever,  
their glory will not fade.  
Their bodies have been buried in peace,  
and their name lives on for all generations.  
The peoples will proclaim their wisdom,  
the assembly will celebrate their praises.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 125. R/. v. 5**

***Response:* Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.**

**1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.**

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. R/.**

**2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'**

**What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. R/.**

**3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.**

**Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. R/.**

**4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:**

**they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. R/.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Luke 6:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Rejoice and be glad:**

**your reward will be great in heaven.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Reading**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

**(6:20-26)**

**How happy are you who are poor. But alas for you who are rich.**

**Fixing his eyes on his disciples Jesus said:**

**'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.**

**Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.**

**Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.**

**'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.**

**'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.**

**Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.**

**Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.**

**'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**