

## ***Background to scripture readings in November***

### **For Sunday November 1—All Saints Day**

**Isaiah 25:6-9** At the Last Supper, Jesus says that he will not drink wine again “until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” Isaiah describes the heavenly banquet to be held when God's kingdom is fulfilled

**Revelation 21:1-6a** The book of Revelation reveals secrets of heaven and earth. St. John sees the new creation, of divine origin and free of evil forces – for ultimately God's love will prevail.

**John 11:32-44** When Jesus says to Mary, “Your brother (Lazarus) will rise again”, she thinks he is referring to a general resurrection at the end of time, but Jesus proclaims “I am the resurrection and the life”.

### **For Sunday November 8**

**Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17** Naomi has returned to Judah after her husband and two sons have died. Both she and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, are widows, and therefore destitute in a society where women only found security in marriage.

**Hebrews 9:24-28** The author portrays Christ as the great high priest, and contrast him with a high priest in the Temple. Heaven is the perfect “sanctuary”, while the 'Holy Place’ in the Temple is a “mere copy”.

**Mark 12:38-44** Previously a scribe has asked Jesus: *which is the greatest commandment?* Jesus has told him that he is almost ready for the kingdom of God. On the other hand, some scribes are hypocritical, greedy and not, like a poor widow, an example of discipleship.

### **For Sunday November 15**

**1 Samuel** Hannah has prayed to God and vowed that if God will grant her a son, she will make him a “nazirite” i.e. a person dedicated/consecrated to God. She trusts God and Samuel was born. Samuel is God's gift to her and in return his mother has given him to God. God controls the destiny of humankind in every age...the story of Samuel is an example.

**Hebrews 10:11-14,(15-18),19-25** By offering himself on the cross Jesus has removed of sin from those whom God set apart for his service who can, since we have a a new deal with God,...approach God in faith with clear consciences and “hold fast” to our faith as Christ's second coming approaches.

**Mark 13:1-8** Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple and gives three indicators as to when the end will be nigh... false claimants to being God's agent of renewal will appear, claiming "I am he!"....international political conflicts will occur... natural disasters will also occur.

### **For Sunday November 22**

#### **2 Samuel 23:1-7**

Our reading, "the last words of David", is a poem. God has made David the founder of a dynasty.

#### **Revelation 1:4b-8**

St. John begins and ends this book as a letter "to the seven churches of Asia", that is, of the Roman province in western Asia Minor. "Seven" also stands for "totality". St. John writes to all churches in the province, or to all churches, everywhere.

#### **John 18:33-37**

Our reading is part of Jesus' trial before Pilate. Pilate has asked some Jewish leaders who seek to have Jesus punished what charge, valid in Roman law, they wish Jesus to be charged with. They propose none, so Pilate asks Jesus whether he is leader of a revolutionary sect.

### **For Sunday November 29**

#### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

Jeremiah prophesies that the line of kings of which David was the founder will continue.

#### **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

Paul had sent Timothy to comfort them in their adversity. Timothy has returned with news of the steadfastness of their love for Christ, for one another, and for Paul as he faces persecution.

#### **Luke 21:25-36**

Our reading is part of Jesus' answer to two questions: when will the Temple be destroyed? What signs will there be that this is about to happen? Jesus tells us that he – the Son of Man – will come from heaven at that time.