



All Saints Day

The Collect

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord; Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

The Collect.

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

13. "A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved unto me....". (Song 1:13)

The Song of Solomon is a book devoted to the preciousness of Christ to His Beloved Bride, the Church, and her love and devotion to Him. Here, the Bride compares Christ to a 'bundle of myrrh.' To what end is Christ as a Bundle of Myrrh? Do you remember the Wise Men from the East who brought gifts of

frankincense, gold, and myrrh? Do you wonder what prophetic meanings these gifts represented? Frankincense symbolized that the baby Jesus was worthy of worship – frankincense at the altar represented the prayers of the people being wafted up to God. *And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.* (Rev 8:4) The gold symbolized the royalty of Christ as King. The Myrrh was prophetic of His death. Myrrh is an expensive and rare herbal extract that is grown only in what is today, Oman. Myrrh is a bitter herb with a camphor-like odor. It is also useful in treating certain diseases. The Myrrh fully represents the death of Christ, and then it represents the healing (by that death) of the lambs who come to Him. A small bit of myrrh is expensive, but a **BUNDLE** signifies an over-abundance that is beyond the customary small amount available to the wealthy – much like a bundle of money, only more so.

Myrrh has an aromatic quality that recommends it as a perfume for clothing and household accoutrements. Its fragrance is strong and cannot be hidden if it is present much like Christ in the heart of a believer – He cannot be kept secret to all who inquire. *All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad* (Psalms 45:8) *I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.* (Prov 7:17) Christ is a sweet-smelling fragrance in the lives of His people.

Myrrh, like salt, has a preservative quality. It slows or prevents corruption. Though we sin egregiously, the myrrh of Christ is sufficient to cover our repented sins and make them as if they never existed. Myrrh was also used to make the skin smooth and wrinkle-free. The Myrrh of Christ makes beautiful and young-at-heart. Remember the preparation of the young maidens along with Esther: *Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)* (Esth 2:12) Most of the vulgar class of people does not know of Myrrh. It is rare and rarely known. Those who procure it must seek it out in knowledge and truth – so with Christ.

The medicinal qualities of myrrh are legion. It helps in easing the effects of rheumatism (just as our walk in life is made easier in Christ. It clears our voices so that they are rich and distinct – so does Christ improve the effect of our voices toward others.

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Heb 1:9) The principle and active ingredient of the oil of anointing for Aaron was myrrh. Benjamin Keach says: "He is the Myrrh tree, from whence the divine oil flows, wherewith the ministers and saints of God are more or less anointed."

The Myrrh given Christ is symbolic of His death just as Christ is symbolic of our death to trespasses and sins, and quickening into the life eternal offered by His healing nature. Christ died for us that our sins might be remitted – we die to

sin that we might have that eternal life purchased in Christ. He is the myrrh of our death – and healing unto LIFE! Just as the Myrrh of Christ's prophetic sacrifice was given as a gift at His birth, so is Myrrh of our death to trespasses and sin given in Christ unto newness of Life in Him.

The sweet-smelling Myrrh of Christ will cover that repugnant odor of our filthy rags of sin just as the best Robe covered the filth of the Prodigal Son.

Dear Reader, when men and women meet you, do they smell the sickening odor of your sins, or the sweet-smelling Myrrh of Christ?