

For the Love of an Imperative Verb

Matthew 5:1-12

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year A, RCL

All Saints' Day, Year A, RCL

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying,:

³"**Blessed** are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"**Blessed** are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"**Blessed** are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"**Blessed** are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"**Blessed** are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"**Blessed** are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"**Blessed** are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"**Blessed** are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"**Blessed** are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²**Rejoice** [χαίρετε, **chaïrete**] and **be glad** [ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, **agalliâsthe**], for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." [NRSV89]

5:12

χαίρετε, **chaïrete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from χαίρω:

translations: **rejoice** [NRSV98, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **alegraos** [IAdNT]

ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, **agalliâsthe**; *vb: pres mid / pass imperative 2nd pers pl* from ἀγαλλιᾶω:

translations: **be glad** [NRSV98, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NRSVue; Albright & Mann], **be . . . glad** [NKJV], also **exult** [Filson], **regocijaos** [IAdNT]

blessed

Crossett: All English "blessed" in this pericope are Greek μακάριοι, **makáριοι**, nominative plural adjectives, and are pronounced in English translations as "blessèd," not as "blest."

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Gene Crossett, Jr.
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