

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Divine Service

AS WE GATHER

At Christmas is sung “God rest you merry, gentlemen,” with “tidings of comfort and joy.” Those tidings were made because our Lord had entered human history. We will finally realize those tidings for ourselves when we join the saints in eternal glory, they who are seen in the vision we will read from Revelation. In the meantime, in these mean times, we rely on hope to get us through each day, as St. Paul writes in the Epistle. That hope is based on our being God’s adopted children, brothers and sisters of our risen Lord Jesus. It is both comforting and joyful, no matter our circumstances. As Jesus proclaims in the Gospel’s Beatitudes, people with such hope are blessed indeed!



✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“For All the Saints”

#677 v. 1-4

- 1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

WELCOME

Pastor: Today we are celebrating All Saints' Day, on which we give thanks "for all the saints who from their labors rest," those who have gone before us in faith. By definition, a saint is anyone looked on as holy by God, and we who have faith in Christ here on earth are already declared by God to be His saints. Indeed, He calls us His children. Knowing the eternal "end of the story" gives us hope in our daily walk through life. That hope is summarized in today's short Epistle.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:1-3* (We are already God's children.)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Confident of salvation, let us confess our sins to our loving, heavenly Father.

People: **We confess that we have not lived as Your children, Father in heaven. In our thinking, speaking, and acting, we have not demonstrated to the people around us the kind of love You have shown us. Forgive us for these our sins. Open our eyes of faith that we may anticipate seeing You in the eternity that awaits us. Then move us toward purity of living that will give You the glory each day until You return.**

Pastor: Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we are God's children now because of the hope God has poured into us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

#686 v. 1, 2

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For heaven-sent peace and the hope of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: For global peace and the Church's growth in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who here return thanks to God for the hope within them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Christ, have mercy, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #686 v. 3, 4

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical Body of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

People: Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Revelation 7: 9–17* (Saints around God’s throne know eternal salvation after having endured persecution.)

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 149; antiphon: v. 4*

Pastor: The LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.

People: **Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise His**

name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!

Pastor: The LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.

People: Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!

Pastor: The LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:1–12* (Jesus' followers are blessed now because of His sure promises.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✕ everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Jerusalem the Golden”

#672

- 1 Jerusalem the golden,
 With milk and honey blest—
 The promise of salvation,
 The place of peace and rest—
 We know not, oh, we know not
 What joys await us there:
 The radiancy of glory,
 The bliss beyond compare!

- 2 Within those walls of Zion
 Sounds forth the joyful song,
 As saints join with the angels
 And all the martyr throng.
 The Prince is ever with them;
 The daylight is serene;
 The city of the blessèd
 Shines bright with glorious sheen.

- 3 Around the throne of David,
 The saints, from care released,
 Raise loud their songs of triumph
 To celebrate the feast.
 They sing to Christ their leader,
 Who conquered in the fight,
 Who won for them forever
 Their gleaming robes of white.
- 4 O sweet and blessed country,
 The home of God's elect!
 O sweet and blessed country
 That faithful hearts expect!
 In mercy, Jesus, bring us
 To that eternal rest
 With You and God the Father
 And Spirit, ever blest.

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SERMON “You Are Not Alone!” (Revelation 7:9-17)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise and thanksgiving forever. God gave new life to them through Holy Baptism, nourished them in the company of His people at His Holy Table, and in His mercy summoned them to His eternal presence so that they continue to serve Him forever.

**At this time individuals who have died since last All Saints' Day are remembered by name. As each name is read, a bell will be tolled as a sign of remembrance and of victory in Christ.*

Pastor: In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, O Lord, those relatives, friends, and fellow members of this congregation who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promise that where You are, there Your servants shall be also.

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the Church, asking that its members grow in love for You and for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Celebrating our lives together as saints, we pray for the fellowship we enjoy as God's holy people, asking that You strengthen us to bring the sacrifices of pure hearts and worship God in His sanctuary with joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Thankful for the saints among us in these days, we pray for those who serve in leadership positions in our Synod, district, and local congregation, asking God to bless their work among us as they set examples of devotion and dedication in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

(additional local petitions may be added here . . .)

Pastor: Confident that Your care for the saints knows no limits, Lord, we make our petitions for the sick, the sorrowing, and all who this day are in need of our prayers, especially . . . Answer their petitions according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Reflecting on the journey of life we make together as the saints below, we pray for the youngest among us, the infants and children, and also for the most senior of saints, those who have been blessed with extended lives on earth. Give us love to cherish the company of all God's people and seek to bring a sense of caring to all those around us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With thankfulness for the land in which we live, we ask Your blessing on our nation, its leaders, and all who work for security and a sense of community in our world and in our lives. Grant that we cherish the freedoms we enjoy and do all in our power to maintain the public good and promote peace and harmony. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting
in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 **For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.****

BENEDICTION *Romans 15:13*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “For All the Saints” #677 v. 5-8

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
 Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
 And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
 Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
 Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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