

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

All Saints' Day

(Observed)

November 7, 2021

"Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song!" is a wonderful theme for the observance of All Saints' Day. We here in the Church Militant continue to fight the good fight of faith yet we rejoice that in the Church Triumphant those who have gone before now rest from their struggle with sin and enjoy being with Christ in Paradise.

"Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead" are words to sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage.

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones Lutheran Service Book 670, Lutheran Worship 308, The Lutheran Hymnal 475



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, Bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, More
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, Ye
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, Su -



ser - apts, cher - u - bim, and thrones, Raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, Lead their prais - es:
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia,
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia,



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
"Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly Twelve, ye mar - tyrs
al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, Vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
Word, Most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
strong, All saints tri - um - phant, raise the
Son, And God the Spir - it, Three in



choirs: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 Lord: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 song: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 One: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. (*Luke 18:13*)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon Revelation 7:14

L 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.

C In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
 in your righteousness deliver me.

L For you are my rock and my fortress;
 and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

C Into your hand I commit my spirit;
 you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

C 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.

L 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.

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- C** Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
-
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

- L** 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. 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After 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, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And 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, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁵“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.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For 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.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Revelation 7:14; Psalm 84:5

- L** These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
C They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
L Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
C in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Psalm 149

- L** ¹Praise the LORD!
Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!
C ²Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
L ³Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!
C ⁴For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.
L ⁵Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.
C ⁶Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,
L ⁷to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples,
C ⁸to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron,
L ⁹to execute on them the judgment written!
C This is honor for all his godly ones.
Praise the LORD!

1 John 3:1–3

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Verse Hebrews 12:1,2

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
C Let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.

Matthew 5:1–12

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

C 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.

For All the Saints Lutheran Service Book 677, Lutheran Worship 191, The Lutheran Hymnal 463



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
3 Oh, may Thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,
4 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
5 And when the fight is fierce, the war - fare long,
6 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;
7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: The
8 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, Through



Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well-fought fight;
Fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old And
We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet
Steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, And
Soon, soon to faith - ful war - riors com - eth rest;
saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; The
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!
 all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 Sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.
 King of Glo - ry pass - es on His way.
 Sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!
Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!
Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!
Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!
Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!
Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!
Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!
Al	-	le - lu - ia!	Al	-	le - lu - ia!

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Devotional thoughts:

Over the last few years, people have asked, “What are you doing now that you are retired?” Long ago, a retired farmer in Nebraska taught me how to answer that question. He would say, “I don’t do much of nuthin’ but I’ve hardly got time for that!”

Actually, until February 10th of this year, much of my time was occupied by helping my mother. She lived alone and was able to take care of herself but with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Valerie and I worked hard at keeping her safe and healthy. She had a few medical issues that needed attention but we expected to enjoy many more years of her company here on earth. But God had other plans. And so, today, we count her among those we commemorate as the faithful departed.

Now, I have to learn what God has planned for me to do next. I’m learning to cook. I enjoy old radios. And I have a few cars to restore.

Besides your “honey-do” lists and daily chores, do you have projects that you enjoy? Do you knit or sew or do crafts? Do you enjoy searching for antiques? Are you an artist? Maybe woodworking occupies your time. Do you take walks in nature?

Have you ever said to yourself, “I want to become a saint”?

I suppose that’s a humorous question to ask. We seem to be living in a world where people are trying to be more and more vulgar. Normal conversations are laced with profanities. Some young people don’t even know that they are using foul and offensive language. The entertainment industry glorifies immoral behavior of every kind. The goal of living a righteous life seems more out of style now than ever before.

But suppose that you did want to become a saint. How would you go about it? Would you search the internet? Would you watch a YouTube instructional video?

In fact, Jesus preached a sermon on how to become a saint. It’s called the Sermon on the Mount. You can read in Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7. You can listen to it online in a little over 15 minutes.

Here are a few helpful hints for becoming a saint found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:

In Matthew 5:20, Jesus tells us that to become a saint, your righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees or you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

In verse 22, He tells us that to be a saint, we must never be angry and we must never insult people.

In verse 28, Jesus tells us that a saint must never have a lustful thought.

In verse 39, we learn that to be a saint, means if someone slaps you on the right cheek, you must turn to him the other also.

If that is not enough, verse 44 says that saints love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them.

There are two more chapters on being a saint but I think that you get the idea. In Matthew 5:48, Jesus gives us a summary of what it means to be a saint. He says saints "must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

To become a saint seems like an impossible task to me! How about to you? It seems like it might be easier to shove a camel through the eye of a needle!

So what are we to do? Should we throw up our hands in hopelessness and despair?

No, actually, in the very first verse of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus gives us the key to becoming saints. He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

In reading the requirements of sainthood as outlined in the Sermon on the Mount, I am driven to realize that, indeed, I am POOR IN SPIRIT!

I am a poor, miserable sinner, filled with iniquity! I have offended God and the people around me. Instead of declaring myself to be a saint, I rightly deserve punishment from God.

But let's go back and read the Sermon on the Mount again. This time instead of thinking about it as a "How-to" manual for sainthood, look at it as a description of Jesus. Jesus was a saint for us! He was perfect as His Father in heaven is perfect. Yet in His holiness, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8).

Although He was holy and sinless, He became poor in spirit for us! Through His life, death, and resurrection, our sins are forgiven. They are taken away from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). He remembers our sins no more (Jeremiah 31:34 & Hebrews 8:12).

Since our sins are totally and completely forgiven, we have become saints! We have become saints through what Jesus did, not through what we do!

When the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth, he says, "to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." He writes to the Ephesians, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-20).

To be sure, on earth we still have sin mixed with our holiness. But "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Then one day, we will be translated from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. We will have a blessed reunion in heaven with our loved ones who trusted in Jesus for salvation. We will join with the saints who have gone before us where there is no more sin or sorrow. We will join the 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.

We will join in singing praise to God with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven that now includes the saints that we commemorate today. There will be no hunger or thirst. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

On earth, they were the poor in spirit. By faith, they learned to look to God for everything, especially forgiveness and salvation.

In heaven, all of God's promises are fulfilled. Our struggle with sin will end. Our tribulation will be over.

Pause for a moment and recall the saints in your life that have gone before. All Saints' Day comes at the beginning of the holiday season. There may be one less chair at your Thanksgiving table this year. There may be one less stocking hung by the chimney with care. Christmas carols may have a somber note. Auld Lang Syne may bring a tear to your eye.

But that tear will only be in your eye. Our loved ones with Jesus in paradise are experiencing joy and peace. There is no more sorrow.

The Sermon on the Mount begins with The Beatitudes but there is one more beatitude to remember recorded in Rev 14:13, “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’

Finally, on this observance of All Saints’ Day, I recall Christmas Eve prayer from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols used at King’s College Chapel, Cambridge:

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one. Amen.

Sing with All the Saints in Glory

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Sing with all the saints in glory,
Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story,
To the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking;
Soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God’s likeness we awaken,
Knowing everlasting peace.</p> | <p>2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding
All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it;
There on high our welcome waits.
Ev’ry humble spirit shares it,
Christ has passed the eternal gates.</p> |
| <p>3 Life eternal! Heav’n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth’s closing thunders,
Saints shall stand before the throne!</p> | |

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“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

- L** Mighty and eternal God, we remember before You the saints and martyrs of every generation, all of our loved ones who have gone before who trusted in You in all circumstances. Grant that when facing trials and persecutions in our own day, we may be steadfast in faith.

G Amen.

- L** Mighty and eternal God, we beg Your grace that our lives may be ordered by Your commands, and we ask You to bless those who govern us in Your name. Bless our president, the Congress, our governor, the legislature and all local officials, that pursuing the path of justice they may act with humility and honor for the good of all people. Give wisdom to all who vote this week, and bless its result, that our nation may elect our leaders peacefully and orderly.

G Amen.

L Almighty God, in this time of national distress and distrust, give our leaders wisdom for the challenges ahead. Send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. Protect all who attend to our needs during this time of national emergency and pandemic.

C Amen.

The Commemoration of The Faithful Departed

P We remember those who together with us stood at the foot of the cross, who heard the Easter truths at the empty tomb, who have gone before us into the heavenly mansions.

C We give special thanks as we recall the lives of our loved ones who have entered into Paradise to be with Jesus and all the saints during this past year.

P Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;

C And whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.

(John 11:25-26)

P Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's right hand has done mighty things! The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"

C I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. (Psalm 118:15-17)

P Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

C Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

(Colossians 3:1-2)

P I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.

C And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. (Job 19:25-26)

P For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.

C If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Rom. 14:7-8)

P Almighty God, in whose glorious presence live all who depart in the Lord and before whom all the souls of the faithful who are delivered of the burden of the flesh are in joy and felicity, we give You hearty thanks for Your loving-kindness to all Your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors, and we humbly implore Your mercy that we, together with all who have departed in the saving faith, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, in both body and soul, in Your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

C 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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won Lutheran Service Book 490, Lutheran Worship 139, The Lutheran Hymnal 201



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -
 2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is
 3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus
 4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
 giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,
 liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,
 sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er
 Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is
 Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I
 Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will



scenes will then com - mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
 But the gate of life immortal;
 This shall calm my trembling breath
 When I pass its gloomy portal.
 Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
 Jesus is my confidence!

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Week of the All Saints' Day

(Observed)

November 8 – November 13

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Introit Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon Revelation 7:14

- L** 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.
C In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
L For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.
C Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
C 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.
L 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.

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Trouble, trouble, trouble. Our lives are full of trouble. Psalm 90:10 declares that our lives are “toil and trouble.” We may approach life with a joyful and happy spirit. We may be positive and count our blessings but we all have trouble. We take comfort in the fact that God has directed us to “Call upon me in the day of trouble” and He promises, “I will deliver you.” When troubles come, God is always there for us.

All of our trouble comes from sin. It either comes from our sin or the sins of others. The only real solution to trouble is ending sin and its consequences.

Our time of living in this world of sin and its troubles is called the “great tribulation.” We all look forward to the day when this time of tribulation and trouble will end. We look forward to that day because our robes have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb—Jesus, the Son of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

He delivers us from all danger and trouble. He is our rock and our fortress. He ultimately takes us out of this time of trouble and tribulation into His eternal kingdom. Into His hands, we commit our spirits.

L Let us pray. O Lord, in You we take refuge. Thank you for washing our sins away and making our robes white through the blood of the Lamb. Grant that we may always have a joyful spirit in times of trouble as we look forward to the day when You will rescue us for all eternity from this time of tribulation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen

Tuesday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse Hebrews 12:1,2

L Alleluia, Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

C Let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

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

C Amen

Time flies when you are having fun! I turn 70 today. How did that happen? All through my 60s, I’ve been able to deny that I’m one of the “elderly.” Now, I guess that I’ll have to admit it.

In the not too distant future, someone may refer to me as Philip Quardokus, OBM. OBM stands for “Of Blessed Memory.”

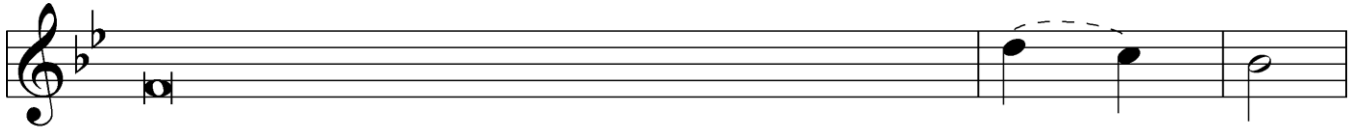
Of course, the saints in heaven are more than only “a blessed memory.” The Bible tells us that the faithful people of all times and all places are gathered into the mansions of heaven. Revelation 7:9 says that they are “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.”

It is particularly sad when the entertainment industry teaches us that our loved ones live on “in our hearts and memories.” No, they are much more than that. For now, they are with the saints in heaven. But on the last day all of the believers will rise in the resurrection of the dead.

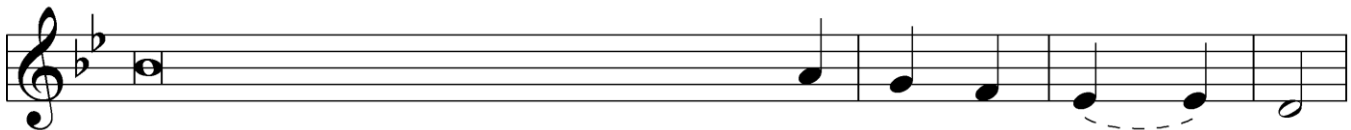
Until then, we cherish their memories. But our loved ones do not fade away when our memories fade away. Along with the thief on the cross, they are with Jesus in paradise. They are experiencing the complete joy and bliss of heaven. One day, we will be to be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting.

Join me in singing the Te Deum on my birthday:

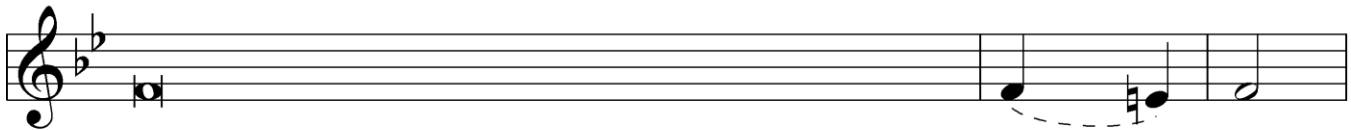
Te Deum



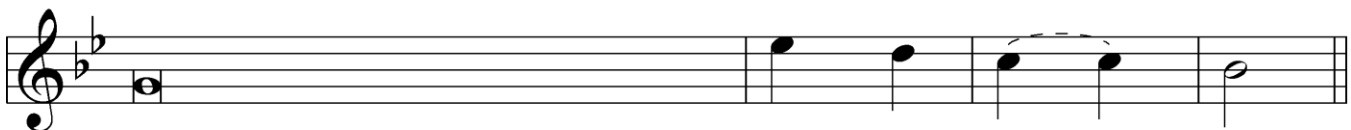
- C** 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



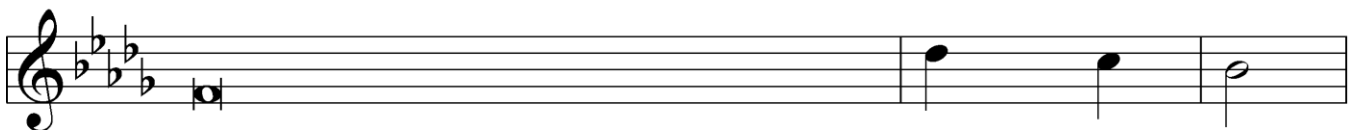
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



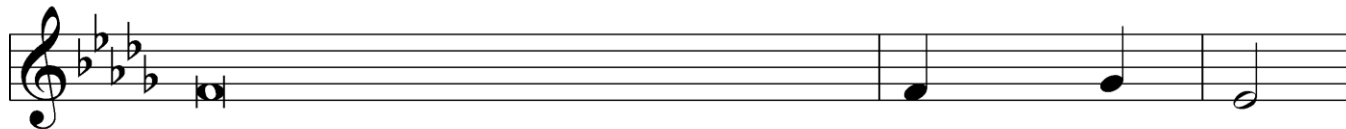
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



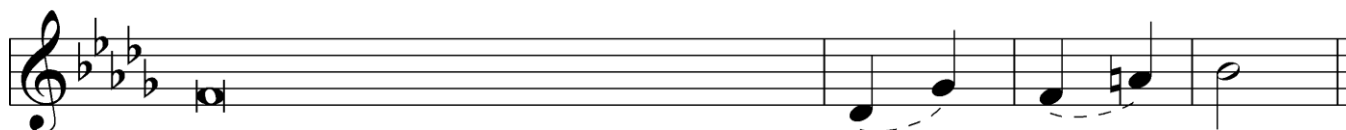
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



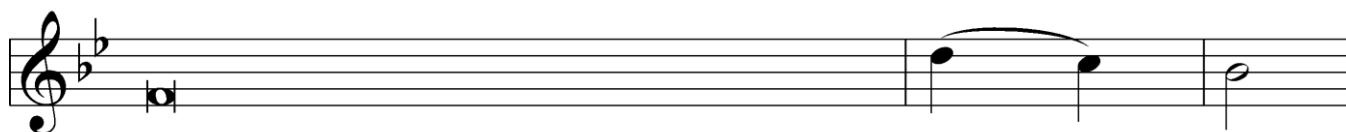
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



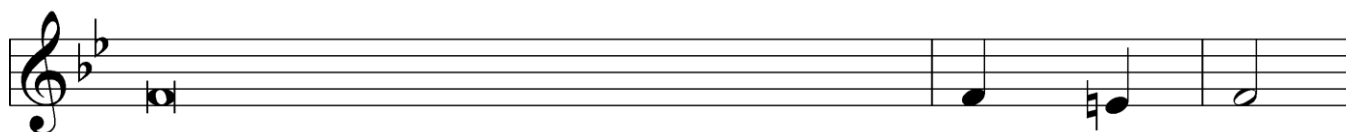
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



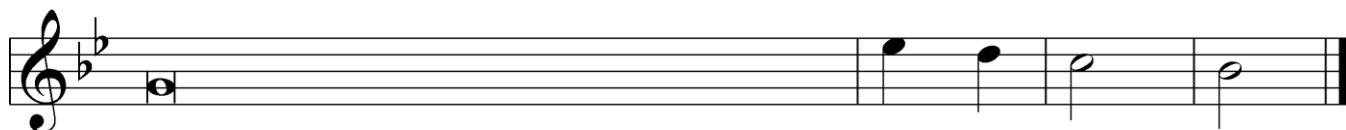
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.

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

Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse Hebrews 12:1,2

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
C Let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.

Psalm 149

- L** ¹Praise the LORD!
Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!
C ²Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
L ³Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!
C ⁴For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.
L ⁵Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.
C ⁶Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,
L ⁷to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples,
C ⁸to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron,
L ⁹to execute on them the judgment written!
C This is honor for all his godly ones.
Praise the LORD!

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Yesterday, we sang the Te Deum which is Latin for “You, O God.” The full title is Te Deum Laudamus which means “We Praise You, O God.”

The psalms are filled with praise for God. Psalm 149 is one of the finest of these psalms of praise.

God’s people praise the LORD with a “new song.” This is the song of life and salvation. The old song is the song of sin and death.

Revelation 5:9 talks about the “new song.” “And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

There is no greater reason to praise God than the fact that we have been ransomed by the blood of Christ.

Prayer: O Lord God, heavenly Father, You have ransomed us by the blood of our savior Jesus. Move our hearts to sing Your praises with the new song of salvation. Amen.

Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse Hebrews 12:1,2

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
C Let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After 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, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And 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, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁵“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.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For 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.”

These words from Revelation give us more than enough to consider for the entire week. For now, let us consider the words of the great multitude, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Though most of the decades of my life, our nation has become more and more fascinated with the non-Christian religions of the world. Each of them is unique in its own way but they all have one thing in common: The good are rewarded in eternity and the evil are punished. This reward or punishment may come through reincarnation or some form of heaven and hell. They all are united in this thought, your eternity is determined by what you do, think, and say in this life. We are all subject to some form of karma.

The Bible rejects such thinking. Salvation does not depend on me and my actions. My salvation depends upon God had His actions for me in Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Left to my own devices, I will get what I deserve: eternal death and punishment for my sin—karma if you will.

But thanks be to God, I have been given the gift of eternal life because of what Jesus has done for me! This is the Christian faith. There is none other like it. It is along in declaring, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Prayer: O Lord God, thank you for the gift of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Grant that I may be faithful to You until the day you call me out this present time of tribulation and trial, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Friday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse Hebrews 12:1,2

L Alleluia, Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
C Let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

1 John 3:1–3

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure

Who are the saints? They are children of God. We are counted among them! How did this happen? God so loved the world that He gave His Only-begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

What will life in heaven be for us who are God's children? It will be different from life in our sinful condition but it will be wonderful. The Bible uses all sorts of pictures to help us understand it. Streets are paved with Gold. Gates are made of pearls. Tears are wiped away. There is no more sorrow or suffering. And ultimately, we will be like Jesus!

Prayer: Almighty, everlasting God, You gave Your only Son to be a High Priest of good things to come. Grant unto us, Your unworthy servants, to have our share in the company of the blessed for all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Gradual Revelation 7:14; Psalm 84:5

L These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
C They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
L Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
C in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Verse Hebrews 12:1,2

L Alleluia, Alleluia. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
C Let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L	O Lord,	C	Have Mercy on us.
L	O Christ,	C	Have Mercy on us.
L	O Lord,	C	Have Mercy on us.

Matthew 5:1–12

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5-7 is Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. You may wish to read the entire sermon today. The most famous part is The Beatitudes, our Gospel lesson for this week.

On the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee on top of a mount is the Church of the Beatitudes. It is a modern church located not too far from Capernaum which served as Jesus’ home base for ministry. A church has been located on this site since at least 381 when it was reported on by a pilgrim to the Holy Land. On the side of the mount, you can recognize a natural amphitheater where it is easy to imagine Jesus delivering His sermon.

These words of the Beatitudes begin Jesus’ sermon on righteousness. Whenever I read this sermon, I am taken aback by how far I fall from Jesus’ expectations. No wonder that people prefer to read the Beatitudes and Jesus’ promise of blessings.

The entire Sermon on the Mount is a sermon on God’s grace. None of us can be perfect as God is perfect (Matthew 5:48). None of us can live up to the law’s demands as Jesus articulates it in this powerful sermon. We only can receive perfection from God by grace. The poor in spirit receive the kingdom by grace. When we come humbly to Jesus not relying on our own merit or worthiness but poor in spirit, He gives us all the blessings of living with Him for time and eternity!

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for Your gift of grace. Grant that we may always receive the blessings You have for the poor in spirit. Amen.

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