

All Saints' Day - 1st November 2020

Liturgical colour: red (the fire of the Holy Spirit, the love of God, and the blood of the Martyrs) or white (the colour of Christ, white like cleansed from all sins, the colour of peace with God, heaven, and eternity)

Countless happy people, nobody stays alone, everybody has his place, everybody gets friendly glances and words from the others, peace, freedom, health, and salvation is touchable in each corner. There are no tears, no pain, no desperation. They celebrate a great worship service, and everybody can understand and follow the liturgy. Maybe



they sing Psalm 150, the Psalm of All Saint's Day:

- 1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
- 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
- 3 Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
- 4 Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
- 5 Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

It is the heavenly service of the redeemed. Uncountable people of all times who have trusted God until their death – often enough a violent death, persecuted and killed because of their steadfast faith in God. Many of them lived an exemplary life, by caring for others, by leading the Church, by proclaiming the Gospel among the nations. We call them “Saints”. Some became role models by staying steadfast in faith also in persecution and a violent death. We call them “Martyrs”. And all of them, also the uncountable “normal people”, our parents and grandparents, all the “forerunners in faith” are our role models in believing in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They remind us to stay in faith and they show us how to live a godly life, overcome the earthly, imperfect life and death and to be redeemed. Alone by faith through Jesus Christ. So says Jesus Christ himself in the **Gospel Reading** for All Saints' Day, according to Saint Matthew, chapter 5, verses 1-10:

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

We believe that in each service we celebrate there is a connection from our service to the heavenly service, that we join in in the heavenly worship of powers, angels, saints, and all the company of heaven, like the **Epistle Reading**, taken from the book of Revelations, chapter 7, verses 9-12, for this day shows us:

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

Especially on All Saints’ we remember those forerunners and role models in faith and life for us. We thank God for their example and get strengthened by listening to their stories. Like in the **Old Testament Reading** about Daniel in his exile in Babylon (Daniel 7, 1-3+13-18+27):

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. 2 Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 17 ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’ 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

Even if we cannot completely exclude that the Saints in heaven pray for us in front of God, as Martin Luther writes in the Smalcald Articles (Part II, art II, par 26; one of the Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord), we should never invoke or pray to the Saints, because “in Christ we have everything a thousandfold better and surer, so that we are not in need of calling upon the Saints.” (Martin Luther) and the Bible is clear in that (1 John 2, 1b): “...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” – Celebrating All Saints’ Day and remembering and honouring the Saints and Martyrs means always to marvel at God’s graceful acts on them and to remember the mercy and one redemption deed Jesus Christ did for them and for us which brought them already to heaven and will also summon us into the heavenly multitude of the eternally redeemed.

Let us join in in this “multitude of the redeemed” and praise and magnify our God in heaven for the salvation He granted us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! And let us be reminded that our services, as small and imperfect they may be, are windows to the great, perfect, and healing worship service in heaven. Our services are effective spaces of heavenly peace, blessing, and salvation.

Payer for All Saints' Day

For the Holy Christian Church at all places, for the church leaders and responsible, our church president Gijsbertus van Hattem, for all bishops, pastors, missionaries, teachers, elders, and group leaders of our world-wide Lutheran Church, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, that they may stay steadfast, and also for their persecutors, that they will find the truth in Jesus Christ and that they stop all violence and persecution, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

For the leaders of the world, that they would promote justice, holiness, and life, and work together for the good of all persons, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our church community, that we would model our lives after the holy men and women of God, becoming more like Christ in all ways, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

In thanksgiving for the Saints of God, and for the love and mercy they have shown to the world, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

For those who are sick or suffering in any way, may they be comforted with the love of Christ, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

For an openness to the transforming grace of Christ, that we would have the fortitude to boldly follow the example of our Lord, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

For all those who have died, that the light of Christ would shine upon them, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our own needs and intentions that we now recall in our hearts, we pray to the Lord: Lord Hear Our Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour and + give us peace. Amen.

Hymns for All Saints' Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9yzhCoaWI>

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By All Your Saints in Warfare

1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For all Your saints at
2 *Insert the stanza appropriate to the day.*
△ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And wor - ship God the
rest, Your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be
Son And sing to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in
blest! For You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
One, Till all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the
crown; And now they shine in glo - ry Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.

Saints and Martyrs (general)

4 Apostles, prophets, martyrs,
And all the noble throng
Who wear the spotless raiment
And raise the ceaseless song—

For these, passed on before us,
We offer praises due
And, walking in their footsteps,
Would live our lives for You.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, sts. 1–10, 12–13, 15–23, 25–26, 28, alt.;
Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 11; Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946, sts. 14, 24, 27
Tune: English; coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958; setting: Paul G. Bunjes, 1914–98
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Text (st. 11): © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel; (sts. 14, 24, 27): © 2006 Gregory J. Wismar
Setting: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

KING'S LYNN
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Heb. 13:7; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 4:8–11; 7:9–17



ALL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BRUSSELS

This compilation comes from **All Lutheran Church of Brussel**, www.alcb.be a congregation of the Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk in België, member of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) represented by The Reverend Johannes Reitze-Landau, pastor@alcb.be the selection of the readings follows the German Protestant Series of the Biblical Readings for the Sundays and Church Feasts based on the "Ancient Church Series", last review in 2018 the Biblical passages are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) the scan of the hymn is taken from "Lutheran Service Book", Saint Louis 2006 the picture is from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints%27_Day