



ABOUT THE PROPERs

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



All Saints' Day

(observed)

November 2, 2025



“Cause / Effect”

Sainthood / Stamina

God grants the status of “saint” (which means “holy one”) to every believer. It might appear that status is of little practical value. If God calls you a saint, just like everyone else, you will struggle with trials, temptations, and sin. Being a saint does not make life easier. In some ways it makes life more difficult as we struggle against a world that is hostile toward Christ. This might lead us to ask, “Is it really that big a deal that God calls us saints?” For centuries, the Church has answered that question by celebrating the Festival of All Saints. This week we get a peek at the saints who have died and now live in the glory of Christ’s light. Through the eyes of faith, we see the saints enjoying glory in the place where “there (is) no more death or sorrow or crying or pain” (Revelation 21:4). We realize what a precious gift this status of saint actually is. We understand that soon enough we shall join all the saints in that glorious heavenly city. And that gives us amazing stamina to face the challenges of this world with the strength Christ gives to all his saints.

First Reading

Revelation 21:1-16

Jesus had told them that he was leaving. Here John gives us a picture of it, and what it will be like when we join Jesus there. St. John gives a vision of the new heaven and the new earth, the home beautifully crafted and lovingly prepared for the Bride of Christ. Here there is nothing of the old sin, death and pain. All is new for all is done.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:32-40

For countless saints, their Christian faith was the cause of pain and even death. They faced these troubles with amazing courage and stamina because they knew God has planned something better for his saints.

Gospel

Luke 6:20-23

After a night of prayer on the hilltop, Jesus descends, revealing his power as the Lord’s Anointed to heal and restore. The disciples are instructed about both blessings and woes in connection with the kingdom of God. Blessing comes to those who put God first and live lives of faith, seeking to put the spiritual ahead of the physical. This faithfulness will be eternally rewarded as evidence of faith.

Psalm of the Day⁴

Psalm 149 B

“Sing the LORD’s Praise in the Assembly”

The Church sings Psalm 149 in services that remember all of the believers in Jesus who have preceded us. The psalm encompasses the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant. Martin Luther said, “Psalm 149 is a psalm of thanks for God being gracious and merciful to his people, and for his people knowing and rejoicing that they have a gracious God. God blesses us with forgiveness of sins, and will not treat us as our sins deserve. The vengeance of the New Testament Church is to strike down idolatry in all the world with the gospel.”

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 7:15 a

“They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.” One is how of the elders is St. John’s vision of heaven described the heavenly host of those in white robes. Since they have been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus), they forever enjoy perfect bliss in the presence of the Lord God. This is our heavenly future!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together into one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow the example of your blessed saints in lives of faith and willing service and with them at last inherit the inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day 890 “Jerusalem the Golden” (Bernard of Cluny, 12th century)

Church Year Season ¹ Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

Colors & Symbolism White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

Nain Paraments Easter

Superfrontal: *Alleluia* is taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

¹ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

² Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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