ABOUT THE PROPERS

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service

All Saints' Day

November 1, 2026



The Beginning of the End

It's Time to … Focus on the Future

The time in between Christ's first and second coming is full hardship, especially for believers. How do we bear it? One way is by remembering that our present sufferings are only temporary and not worth comparing to the glory that awaits us in heaven. Happier times are coming! This truth is made crystal clear on our celebration of All Saints' Day. Today we remember every saint who has gone before us. We have in mind all those who believed in Jesus – the heroes of faith in Scripture, our faithful family members, and all Christians of all times. They all endured hardship and pain. But no more. Now they enjoy perfect glory, peace, and joy! It's the beginning of the end. As we journey through this time in between, how do we endure? We remember what God has done for all the saints and focus on the glory that awaits us too!

First Lesson [3] **Revelation 7:9-17**

St. John's vision lets us see all the saints in heaven so that we might remember the future glory that waits for us. The paradox of Christ is that he is both Lamb and Shepherd. He saves his flock, by shedding his blood as the Lamb sacrificed for sin. This is the Good Shepherd we needed: God in the flesh, sacrificed for our atonement. But now, washed in his blood, the white robed host is led by the Shepherd-Lamb to the springs of living water and a life where everything that once was wrong is made right forever.

Second Reading [3] **1 John 3:1-3**

In love God the Father adopted us as his children, making us heirs of future glory. Children are often unaware of the protection their parents provide for them. It is nonetheless real. In God's case that is true on a much higher plane and with end results that we will only appreciate in heaven.

Gospel [1] **Matthew 5:1-12**

In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the world upside down. He calls blessed the people this world never would. He calls blessed people that the world would use as doormats! The world praises the brash, the strong, and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others see as weak or stupid. To live this kind of blessedness requires a deep trust in the Lord's strength and a long-term view of life. Jesus calls us blessed even in circumstances like mourning and persecution, because he is looking beyond the troubles of this world to the reward that is waiting for the people of God. Like reading the last chapter of a book, Jesus takes the mystery out of a life filled with sorrow by showing us the end, the outcome of life lived trusting in God's strength. All the weak children of God can rejoice and be glad—even now—because our reward will be great!

Psalm of the Day [4] **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 883 "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White" (Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764)

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 a 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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