

1 November 2020  
ALL SAINTS' DAY  
**CONCORDIA**

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
725 Truxton Drive. Kingsport, TN.

*concordiakingsport.org*



*Salvation  
belongs to our  
God who sits  
on the throne.*

Rev. 7

Collect

*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.*

Introit

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\* They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb. **In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;\* in your righteousness de- | liver me.** For you are my rock and my | fortress;\* and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me. **Into your hand I commit my | spirit;\* you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God. Glory to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Selected Readings for All Saints Day

**Old Testament/Revelation 7:(2–8) 9–17. Epistle/1 John 3:1–3. Gospel/Matthew 5:1–12  
*Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ***

- “A great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages” cry out, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne” (Rev. 7:9–10). Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God.
- As His beloved children, we, too, “shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall “serve him day and night in his temple” (Rev. 7:15).
- In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward to our eternal home, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).

Stewardship

**Matthew 5:7 – “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”**

This is one of many Bible passages that remind us that we reap what we sow. Likewise, what God puts into us – His own love, mercy, kindness, and generosity – flows back out of us. It all starts with His self-giving.

### Sermon Notes

+ All Saints' Day +

*Coming Out of Terrible Suffering. Revelation 7:13-15*

One of the leaders asked me, *"Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?"* I answered him, *"Sir, you know."* Then he told me, *"These are the people who are coming out of the terrible suffering. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. That is why they are in front of the throne of God. They serve him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them."*

Even in the midst of terrible suffering, God's children through faith in Jesus can joyfully serve Him who cleanses their sin and gives them His presence and protection.

**1) As Jesus' forewarns His followers, suffering is normative**

- a. Sermon on the Mount – blessings
- b. Hated by the World

**2) Our robes have been made white in the blood of the Lamb**

- a. Represents putting Christ in Holy Baptism
- b. Reminds us to continually turn to God

**3) We joyfully serve in His presence, under His protection**

- a. Before the throne of God
- b. He will spread His tent over us

### Discipleship Leading to Evangelism

Saints are saints by choice.... but the choice belongs to God. It is the marvel of God's grace and mercy that He did not come to pat the righteous on the back but to save sinners. It is the surprise of a lifetime to find that which brings joy to heaven is not the holiness of the good but one sinner who repents. All Saints' Day traditionally separates the big from the ordinary, leaving them to All Souls' Day. In reality such a distinction is ever harder to make. The Church does not make saints and people certainly do not make themselves saints but God and His gracious choice makes holy who is unclean, righteous who is impure, forgiven who is guilty, alive who is dead.

We give thanks on this day not so much for the saints themselves but especially for the

- God whose choice called them,
- gathered them into His arms in baptism,
- enlightened them with His Spirit and His Word,
- sanctified them by clothing them with Christ's righteousness,
- and kept them by feeding them Christ's flesh and blood.

This noble company of saints cheers on the ongoing work of God who does for us what He did for them. This mighty army wears the scars of their battles for the sake of Him whose scars redeemed them. This blessed pilgrim throng has reached the eternal shore but does not forget those who still journey to the end and outcome of their faith.

Thanks be to God!

*pastralmeandering.org. Nov.1, 2015.*

Prayer of the Church. All Saints' Day. 1 November 2020

Standing with the great multitude of saints before the throne of God and the Lamb, let us join in prayer, praise and thanksgiving to the God of our salvation. Mighty and eternal God, we remember before You the saints and martyrs of every generation, who trusted in You in the face of terror and threat. Grant that when facing persecution and trial in our own day, we may be steadfast in faith. Deliver those whom You have washed in Baptism, granting the new life that death cannot overcome. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** You established the Church and have granted her Your aid and protection through these many years. Continue to pour out upon us Your Spirit and grace, that we may accomplish Your bidding and proclaim Your saving name to every corner of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** we give You thanks for the faithful pastors who have spoken to us Your Word and the church workers who have served us in Your name. Grant that we may continue to receive their ministry of Word and Sacrament with willing ears and open hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**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. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** we rejoice that You have rescued us from the power of death and raised us in Christ to dwell with Him in everlasting life. Give to those who grieve the comfort of the promise of the resurrection of the dead and eternal life, and bestow Your peace upon the dying, that they may fall asleep here and awaken in Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** You have made us Your children, and You continue to guard us as Your own possession. According to Your will, give healing to the sick, calm to the troubled in mind, and patience to those facing sorrow and struggle. Give health and peace to our nation. Hear us especially on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** show forth Your kindness to the poor and Your compassion to those who suffer injustice. Deliver us from the scourge of racism and prejudice, and help us to acknowledge our common life from Your creative power and our common redemption in Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** we are unworthy of all Your blessings and do not deserve the mercies new every morning of our earthly lives. Give us the will and desire to care responsibly for all that You have entrusted to us and to be generous with those in need and for the support of Your Church and the work of Your Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** Your Son has set His table among us in the presence of our enemies, giving us a foretaste of the eternal feast to come. Prepare us in heart and mind to come to this Sacrament and receive the blessing of His body and blood for our benefit. Deliver us from divisions that prevent our communion together, and bring us soon to the day when we will be fully united in doctrine and life to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Mighty and eternal God,** bring us to that day when every tear shall be wiped from our eyes and we shall hunger and thirst no more. Knowing You now by faith, we yearn for the day when we shall know You face to face. Until the dawn of that eternal day, keep us in Your faith and fear through our Good Shepherd and Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**