

sin would have us believe that our happiness depends on our inner self-sufficiency and self-worth. God tells us that when we acknowledge our worthlessness, we will be filled with His wonder, His peace, His good will and purpose. There is a difference between weakness (meekness) and forgiveness. Jesus was neither weak nor meek, but He was clearly forgiving. Jesus was strong in the presentation of the Gospel and forgiving in His application of the Gospel. Jesus suffered in a manner we hardly comprehend. The perfect man took up our sin that He would be changed into Saints. He was punished in our place that we would gather around the throne of God to praise His Holy name.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Almighty and ever-living God, we praise You for the precious gift of Your Son Jesus Christ. You have saved us in Him, and through Him have called us with a Holy calling into fellowship with all Your Saints to the inheritance of Heaven.

We thank You for Your Church. Through Your Church You have granted us the glory of Your abiding presence, the power and truth of Your Holy Spirit, and communion with our Savior Jesus Christ. Keep Your Church steadfast in Your Word and Sacraments, faithful to Your revelation and obedient to the command of Your Son. Let us proclaim the Gospel to the farthest ends of the Earth and hold forth the Word of Life with zeal and fervor. Empower Your Word in the Holy Spirit so that multitudes of every nation and kindred and people and tongue may sing of Your salvation and rejoice in Your mercy. Endow Your people with the undaunted faith of the prophets. Make us continue in the sound doctrine of the Apostles, and serve You with the love and courage of the Martyrs. Help all those in Your Church live in the righteousness of Christ and in obedience to His commandments that we may shine forth as lights in this world and in eternity with You.

Comfort the aged and the infirm with Your blessing for the coming wonder of Your heavenly rest. Strengthen the weary and those who carry a burden with Your eternal grace. Give the spirit of power, love and a sound mind to the fearful, heal the sick and the wounded through their faith in You. Console the sorrowing, the bereaved and the lonely with the promise of the communion of saints and the resurrection of the dead.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Deliver us from every sin of body and soul. Deliver us that we are able to march out of this Church Militant into the Church Triumphant, to dwell in joy with all the saints in the blessed rest of eternity in Heaven. All this we ask, in and through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

© Amen.

## ALL SAINTS DAY

### Chant Tone



### Introit

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.

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 be 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.

(Antiphon, Revelation 7:14b;  
Psalm 31:1, 3, 5)

### Collect of the Day

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.

### Gradual

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.  
Blessèd are those whose strength is — in you,\*  
in whose heart are the highways to — Zion.

(Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O Almighty God, by Whom we are graciously set together as one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us so to follow Your blessed Saints in all virtue and in godliness of living that we are made worthy of the unspeakable joys which You have prepared for those who know, trust and love You. Through the ministry of Your church we pray that You would send forth the Gospel to all parts of the world, that all might come to know, trust and love You in the manner which will abound to their salvation. All this we ask in the name and for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACE IN THE LIVES OF HIS SAINTS.** As we rejoice with "all the Saints," we remember that we, too, are Saints of God. We are all Saints in the Church because God created us good in His sight, He sent His Only begotten Son to redeem us from sin by dying on the cross, and He sanctifies us (makes us Saints!) by the work of the Holy Spirit, through our Baptism, the Word, and the Lord's Supper. Through these gifts of grace we share in the fellowship of the Body of Christ--the communion of Saints. Joyfully, we recall those Saints who have gone before us, led by God's grace, to the Church Triumphant. We grow in saintliness through God's Word and Sacrament coming to us, as we strive to gather more Saints into this communion. We look forward eagerly to praising God eternally around the throne with "all the Saints."

#### **THEME OF THE DAY:**

All The Saints

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Revelation 7:14b;) Psalm 31:1, 3, 5  
Those who have come out of the tribulation of this world are the saints who gather around the throne to praise God. That is the theme of Revelation 7. Psalm 31 was written by David while he was being persecuted by Saul. David came to understand that he couldn't solve his problems and therefore laid them on God.

#### **COLLECT**

All Saints Day, was used by the historic church to remind us of those Christians who went before us proudly and fearlessly proclaiming the name of God, just-so-that we would hear and know the Gospel. We simply commend God for making us over into the one communion of the saved, and ask to be kept with Jesus and all the saints to eternity.

#### **FIRST LESSON**—Revelation 7:2-17

We focus especially on the people Christ won by His sacrifice, the sheep for whom Jesus became The Shepherd. Verse 17, "the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their Shepherd," is tied by John to Psalm 23 (as it finishes with, "He will lead them to springs of living water.") The results of Christ's work are spelled out. In Heaven there are no effects of sin. Jesus was both the sacrifice for the sins of the world, and the Priest Who made the sacrifice. Through that one sacrifice He made satisfaction for the sins of the world.

#### **GRADUAL**—Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

(Note the triple use of Revelation 7:14!) It is thought that David wrote Psalm 84 when his third son Absalom, forced him to flee Jerusalem. King David was singing of his affection for God Who (by allowing David's most trusted general to find him, and to regain the throne.

#### **EPISTLE LESSON**—1 John 3:1-3

The apostle John, in calling us children of God, states that God has accomplished a re-creation. We are changed from, "not a people" to, "His people." The change took place because of God's Love and the merits of Jesus Christ. This change in our relationship with God and in our essential being is from the corruptible and temporal to the incorruptible and immortal.) This change has yet to be fully realized by us. It is true in the life, death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have a new relationship with God and with each other.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**—Matthew 5:1-12

Though discipleship often brings suffering, there is a reward for those who remain steadfast in the faith, it is the fellowship of Saints in Heaven.