

ABOUT ALL SAINTS' DAY

Theme: the saints who from their labors rest
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

The earth will give birth to those who sleep in death on the day when Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead. But already now those who die in the LORD are alive with Him. In the celestial courts above they sing the eternal triumph song of angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven. (Revelation) But that's not all. Their bodies will rise. With robes made white in the blood of the Lamb, they stand before the throne of God to be sheltered by His love. There their tears are wiped away by His own hand. But not here. Here we weep the tears of the saints in exile, longing for our eternal home. (1 John) What we will be we do not know, only that now we are the children of God. Yet the church on earth and heaven is all one. We, too, are blessed by the Lamb who reigns above. (Matthew) Even now He pronounces His heavenly benediction on all who suffer for His Name and Kingdom. The poor, the meek, the peacemakers...all who belong to Him are blessed: theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. From saints below and saints above one song ascends to God and to the Lamb in the power of the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

Sunday	Revelation 7:9-17 Who stands among the unnumbered throng before the throne and in front of the Lamb? What is their song? What do they wear? Why? How? To what, therefore, may all the baptized faithful look forward? What does this mean right now?
Monday	1 John 3:1-3 Describe the kind of love the Father gives. What, therefore, do we now know? What will we be like when Christ returns? What does this mean?
Tuesday	Matthew 5:1-12 Who are the blessed? What are their gifts? What do they endure? Why? How? What persecution are you enduring now? How? Why? What does this mean?
Wednesday	Psalms 149 Why does the psalmist call upon the reader to "praise the LORD"? [Make a list.] How is overcoming one's enemies "honor for his godly ones"? What does this mean?
Thursday	1 Kings 17:8-16 Is Zarephath part of Israel? What is the significance of Elijah going there? How did Jesus make use of (and apply) this incident (see Luke 4:25-27)? What does this mean?
Friday	Hebrews 9:24-28 How are the heavenly places different from the Jewish Temple on earth? How is Christ different from the high priest who served at the Temple? What is the result for us? When will this happen? What does this mean?
Saturday	Mark 12:38-44 Against whom does Jesus warn His listeners? Are there people like that around yet today? If so, who? How is the widow in the text like the widow of Zarephath in the OT lesson? What do both widows' actions mean for us today?