

a l l s a i n t s

THE *Saints*  
IN LIGHT

Leader's Guide

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THE *Saints* IN LIGHT

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Leader's Guide

# THE *Saints* IN LIGHT

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# THE *Saints* IN LIGHT

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## Notes and Ordering Information

In this worship service for All Saints Day, join with all the saints in light to praise Jesus, the Lamb who was slain for us. Scripture readings, a sermon, hymns and a children's message celebrate our place among the saints, a place won for us by our Savior. Hymns include "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng," "For All the Saints" and "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus."

Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code **SAM**

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# THE *Saints* IN LIGHT

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## Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

### Newsletter Notice

We invite you to our All Saints service to join your voices with all the saints in light to praise Jesus, the Lamb who was slain for us. The entire worship experience is an honoring of the lives of those who have gone before us and a celebration of our place among the saints, a place won for us by our Savior.

### Bulletin Notice

We welcome you to this very special All Saints service in which we join with all the saints in light to praise Jesus, the Lamb who was slain for us. Let this worship experience be a blessing to you as we honor the lives of those who have gone before us and celebrate our place among the saints, a place won for us by our Savior.

# THE *Saints* IN LIGHT

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## Complete Script For Worship Leaders

They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. —Revelation 22:5

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Marion SM and refrain:

Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king,  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,  
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Still lift your standard high, still march in firm array,  
As pilgrims through the darkness wend till dawns the golden day.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem, the blest.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Praise him who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore:  
The Father, Son and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

- The **Responsive Reading**, Psalm 145:8-13, is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

☐ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

☑ **All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!**

☐ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

☑ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

☐ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us confess our sins to God as we seek his mercy and forgiveness.

☑ **Almighty God, you have called us to be your saints, your holy people, but we do not reflect that holiness in our lives. We sin against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We do not witness to your saving love by what we say and do. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus our Savior.**

☐ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. For the sake of Jesus, the Lamb of God slain for you, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

☑ **All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!**



- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Nun Danket All CM:

Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne;  
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.

“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be exalted thus!”

“Worthy the Lamb,” our lips reply, “for he was slain for us!”

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

(Needed: collections of small items to count such as pennies and crayons;  
a photograph of the stars in space)

**P** Today I’m going to ask you to help me count some things. First, let’s count this collection of [pennies]. Help me count out loud (set out the pennies one by one): One...two...three...four...five...six...seven. I have [seven] pennies in my collection. That’s not very many! I brought some [crayons] too. Let’s see if I have more of those. Count out loud with me again (set out the crayons one by one): One...two...three...four...five...six...seven...eight...nine...ten! I have more crayons than pennies! Let’s count another collection of things. This is a big collection, so I just brought a photograph of it, because it’s too big to fit in church. It’s a collection of stars in the sky! Let’s count these stars out loud (point to stars as you count): One...two...three...four...five...wait! We need to stop counting! If we try to count all of these stars we could be here all day. There are too many stars here to count!

One day long ago, Jesus let his follower John look into heaven. John saw a huge crowd of people, as many as the stars in the sky! John said, “I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number.” There were so many people in heaven that John couldn’t count them. And all of those people—as many as the stars in this picture—were shouting praise to Jesus! They were God’s holy people, the saints, and they were praising Jesus because he died on the cross and rose from the dead to save them. Jesus died and rose to save you and me, too. Because we believe

in Jesus, we are God's saints, his holy people, and someday we will stand in heaven with that great big crowd of people—God's people. What do you think we will be doing? (Let children answer.) All together we will be singing and shouting our praise to Jesus, because he died to save us! Let's say a prayer of praise and thanks to Jesus right now:

Jesus, we praise you for dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save us. We look forward to the day when we join all of your holy people and sing praise to you in heaven. Amen.

- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Nun Danket All CM:

Jesus is worthy to receive honor and pow'r divine;  
And blessings more than we can give be, Lord, forever thine.

Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name  
Of him who sits upon the throne and to adore the Lamb.

- The **Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 25:6-9**, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

- The **Epistle Reading, Colossians 1:9-14**, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual

wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- The **Gospel Reading, John 6:35-40**, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Sine Nomine 10 10 10 and alleluias:

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

¶ There is a lot of counting going on in Scripture, and it starts out right “in the beginning.” “In the beginning,” when God creates the heavens and the earth, the days are carefully counted as they unfold: “And there was evening and there was morning, the first day,” all the way up to “the seventh day” when “God finished his work” (Genesis 1:5; 2:2). Much later, before God destroys the sin-filled world with a flood, animals are counted as they enter Noah’s ark, two by two—and Noah and his family no doubt counted those long days in the ark. Centuries later, God brings the patriarch Abraham outside and tells him to start counting the stars. “So shall your offspring be,” God promises; Abraham will have that many descendants, as many as the stars, and through him all nations would be blessed (Genesis 15:5).

When Abraham’s descendants can still be counted—they number only 70 people—they move to Egypt to escape famine in Israel. Once in Egypt they multiply, “so that the land was filled with them” (Exodus 1:7). When God’s people are oppressed and enslaved there, God leads them out to freedom, and at that time they are counted again. By this time the people of Israel number “about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children” (Exodus 12:37). The years were counted too—the people had lived in Egypt for 430 years, but when the time was right, God led them out into freedom and into their own land. On the way through the wilderness, they are counted yet again, this time numbered for war. The Book of Numbers, which—as you can tell from its title—is all about counting, tells us that 603,550 men in Israel were able to go to war (Numbers 1:46).

God had promised Abraham that through him all nations would be blessed. The promise was repeated again and again, down through the centuries in the words of the prophets. God would send his Anointed One, his Messiah, a Savior who would be born among Abraham’s descendants. When the time came for that promise to be fulfilled, the counting in Scripture begins again. This time it is an earthly ruler who, as rulers often do, starts counting his subjects. “In those days,” the Gospel of Luke tells us, “a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered” (2:1). And while that counting took place, Mary, the virgin betrothed to Joseph of Nazareth, gave birth to her

firstborn son, the promised Messiah, the Son of God. One...two...three... Joseph, Mary, Jesus...a little family of three was added into Caesar's count.

Long before Jesus' birth, the prophet Isaiah foretold a day when Jesus, grown to adulthood, would be counted again. The day would come when God's Anointed One would be "numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). Two guilty, condemned thieves and Jesus, condemned yet innocent, were nailed up on crosses...one...two...three...outside of the city of Jerusalem. As God had promised through the prophet Isaiah, on that center cross, where Jesus hung and suffered and died, "the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations," was swallowed up (Isaiah 25:7). Three days later...one...two...three...Jesus came out of his grave, never to die again. The veil of sin, the shroud of death that covered all people—the smothering shroud of sin and death that covered you and me—was swallowed up forever in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We're not done counting yet. Only one person came out of the grave on that first Easter...count him...just one. But he was the first, the firstfruits of a mighty harvest, a countless harvest, to follow. Through faith in Jesus, forgiveness and eternal life are ours. One day we, too, will leave our graves as Jesus did, never to die again. Jesus promised, "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40).

The ancient hymn called the Te Deum prays, "Help your servants, whom you have redeemed with your precious blood. Make them to be numbered with your saints in glory everlasting." Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are saints—God's holy people—right now. Through faith in Jesus we are numbered with all the saints. Faithful believers down through the centuries, our own friends and loved ones who have already fallen asleep in Jesus and are now with the Lord, they, too, are numbered with the saints. But they, and you and I, did not achieve a place in this numbering by our own efforts; it was the Lord's work from start to finish. God the Father, Scripture tells us, "qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Colossians 1:12-13).

Tune..... Hyfrydol 87 87 D

The image displays a musical score for the tune 'Hyfrydol' in 3/4 time, marked with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score is presented in a grand staff format, with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The music is organized into six systems, each consisting of two staves. Measure numbers 1, 8, 15, 21, and 27 are indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests, along with chordal structures. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Creative Communications' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page, including the musical notation.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Hyfrydol 87 87 D:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."  
Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

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