



Saints
ALIVE

A Service for All Saints

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Saints ALIVE

A Service for All Saints

Notes and Ordering Information

Saints Alive! is a celebration of All Saints that not only looks back at those whom God has provided in our history, but also looks around at those saints who are more recent gifts of God in our lives. The service begins with a Rite of Remembrance involving “For All the Saints” and the names of those who have died in the past year, and ends with “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” It includes a stirring remembrance to the tune of “How Great Thou Art.” Sermon notes, prayers, and music for the accompanist are included in the service kit.

Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code SA7A

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Saints ALIVE

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Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Join us for an All Saints Day service that celebrates the lives of the saints of the past who have gone before us as well as our lives as the saints of God on this earth here and now. In word and song and Scripture, remember with thanksgiving that we are all made alive in Christ both on earth and in heaven.

Bulletin Notice

On this All Saints Day we celebrates the lives of the saints of the past who have gone before us as well as our lives as the saints of God on this earth here and now. We join together in word and song and Scripture to remember with thanksgiving that we are all made alive in Christ both on earth and in heaven.

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Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- A **Rite of Remembrance** is sung by the congregation to the tune Sine Nomine 10 10 10 and alleluias, interspersed with the words of 1 Peter 1 read responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

C By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

P and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

C even as we are being kept by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed on the last day.

P Therefore, set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

C **As he who called us is holy, so we are to be holy ourselves in all our conduct.**

P For it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Oh, may your 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 within your great design. Alleluia! Alleluia!

P Let us pray. Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness.

C **We give you thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors.**

(The names of those who have died in the past year are spoken before the Lord.)

P Into your hands we commend them, O merciful Savior, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming.

C **Rest eternal grant to them, Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

• **The Prayer of the Day** is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Dear God above, we join with the holy train of saints before us and behind us in praising your name and giving glory to you for making us your holy people through the blood of your Son, Jesus. Let us live as your saints each day of our lives, dwelling fully in your forgiveness, love and salvation by your grace. Help us each day to grow closer to you and closer to one another as we worship, serve and pray to you. Amen.

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

(Needed: a mirror)

☐ Hello, boys and girls and Happy All Saints Day! Today is a day when we remember those who have gone to heaven to be with Jesus. It is a day for us to celebrate their lives and to thank God for giving them to us and allowing us to share our lives with them.

But today is also a day to remember someone else. *(Hold up the mirror so that the children can look into it.)* Who do you see here? *(Point to the mirror and allow the children to respond.)* That’s right! You see you and you see me and if you look even closer you can see the people in the pews. We are all saints of God. You, me and everyone here. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:19: “You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

We are a part of God’s family here and now. We are brothers and sisters in Christ here on earth and the rest of God’s family is in heaven. So what should we do while we are here? The Bible helps out again in 1 Peter 2:9: “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

We are tell the world about Jesus and what he has done for us by dying on the cross. We have the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life in heaven with all the saints in light. Let Jesus light your way each day as you remember that you are his precious possession and will be his forever. Now that is worth celebrating!

Let us pray: Thank you, dear God, for the lives of those who are in heaven with you and for giving them to us during their time here on earth. Help us to remind people around us of your love for all your saints here on earth and in heaven. Fill us with the joy of knowing that we will always be a part of your family. Amen.

- The **First Lesson**, Revelation 7:9-17, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in

white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- The **Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Diademata SMD:

To God on high be praise, whom saints of old believed,
And served in faith through darksome days, eternal life received.
With those who've gone before, in faith the way have trod,
Raise alleluias to adore our great and saving God!

- The **Second Lesson**, 1 John 3:1-3, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

- The **Gospel Celebration** is sung by the congregation to the tune Festal Song SM:

For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
Who followed you, obeyed, adored, our grateful hymn receive.

For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
Who counted you their great reward, accept our thankful cry.

They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
Learned from your Holy Spirit's breath to suffer and to do.

- The **Holy Gospel**, Matthew 5:1-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader, perhaps from the center of the worship space:

Ⓟ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- The **Gospel Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Festal Song SM:

For this your name we bless, and humbly pray anew
That we like them in holiness may live and die in you.

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

Ⓟ “What is the definition of a saint?” the Sunday school teacher asked. Hands shot up around the circle of young people, but before the teacher could call on one, an excited student responded, “A saint is a dead Christian!”

The teacher smiled, remembering that many years ago she had given a similar answer, only to have the pastor get very technical in responding, “Well ... yes ... except ... strictly speaking, I suppose we could say there is no such thing as ‘a dead Christian.’”

Huh? “Even when Christians die, they’re not really dead,” the pastor tried to explain. “At least, not permanently. You could probably say that people are either dead or they’re Christian. Because Jesus rose from the grave after he had died, people who believe in Jesus—Christians—are going to live forever. There won’t be any ‘dead Christians.’”

At this point the Sunday school teacher thought to herself, “I wonder if that’s what my mother’s Aunt Helen meant when she would say, ‘Saints alive!’” That was Great Aunt Helen’s customary expression whenever she was surprised or excited or pleased or curious or frustrated, the teacher remembered: “Saints alive!”

Whatever Great Aunt Helen may have meant back then, theologically she was right on target. The word *dead* simply won’t do to describe God’s saints, because ultimately it just doesn’t apply to them—to us. Because Jesus died for us and rose again, death has been overcome, defeated (all biblical pictures of what’s going on), “swallowed up in victory.” So, when we talk about all the saints, as we are doing today, we are absolutely right in exclaiming, “Saints alive!”

That’s the way so many of the New Testament epistles refer to the people to whom they were written; the Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians are all addressed

with terms like “called to be saints”—saints alive! When St. Paul was taking up a collection for the beleaguered Christians in Jerusalem, he referred to it as “relief for the saints”—so that they could be fed and would not prematurely become “dead Christians.” “Saints alive” are living the life which the Lord has given us, which the Holy Spirit inspires within us and among us (as once the Spirit breathed life into the dry bones which the prophet Ezekiel beheld). The word *saints* is especially used where Christians are showing love to one another, helping one another, caring for one another—not “dead Christians” but saints alive!

Our Lord’s Beatitudes (today’s Gospel) describe us in just such terms, don’t they?—as actively involved in living the lives our Lord has given us, which may involve mourning now and then, but at the same time involves being merciful. Saints alive! Maybe poor in spirit, but actively involved in righteousness. Saints alive! Maybe meek, but seeking nonetheless to be peacemakers. Saints alive!

As we shall be alive forever. The Sunday school student who defined saints as “dead Christians” was a Sunday school student nonetheless, one who had been taught about heaven, God’s gift of life without end forever and ever with the Lord in his glory. In the reading from Revelation, “dead Christians” are pictured as being very much “saints alive,” aren’t they? With palm branches in their hands, on the move (“they have come out of the great ordeal”), gathering around the throne, partaking of the water of life with ever-joyful hearts and ever-praising voices. Saints alive!

Can we picture ourselves as part of that vast multitude? Let’s try it. I invite you [to stand up and] hold the hand of the person next to you, or behind you or ahead of you ... so that we are all connected in a kind of circle, “the communion of saints.”

Now close your eyes, if you will, and use your imagination. Picture others joining our circle ... the church across the street, all the people in it. Our circle has just doubled, hasn’t it? Now, pick out another congregation in the community, and have those people join hands with us in your mind. Are you seeing some of them?

Let’s make the circle really bigger, the way the Lord sees it. Every church in town! We’re reaching out and they’re reaching out to hold hands in an ever-widening circle. The communion of saints. Now, all the churches in the state. Don’t forget to include people in wheelchairs and medical beds; picture others helping them into the circle. Can we picture more than one state at a time? Could our circle involve the whole nation? And what about Christians overseas? If you know people like that, picture them personally right now, joining hands in our circle.

And now ... and now, begin including those saints whom we named earlier in the service, those who have died within the past year. And those who have died before that. Are some of you seeing your mother in the circle, or your father? Your grandparents? A child for whom

Musical notation for measures 1-5. The score is in 3/4 time and G major. The treble clef part begins with a whole rest in measure 1, followed by chords in measures 2-5. The bass clef part starts with a whole note G in measure 1, followed by eighth and quarter notes in measures 2-5.

Musical notation for measures 6-10. The treble clef part continues with chords in measures 6-10. The bass clef part continues with eighth and quarter notes in measures 6-10.

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- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Boylston SM:

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

When here our pathways part, we suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

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Contemporary Music Song Suggestions

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“The Prayers of the Saints” by Matt Redman

“Come All You Saints” by Joel Harding, Jonathan Headley, Jonathan James, Matthew Hooper and Sem Schaap

“May the Peoples Praise You” by David Zimmer, Ed Cash, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

“Take Me In” by Dave Browning

“Build Your Kingdom” by Rend Collective

“Children of God” by Steven Curtis Chapman

“Alive Forever Amen” by David Moffitt, Sue C. Smith and Travis Cottrell

“Because He Lives (Amen)” by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Gloria Gaither, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher and William J. Gaither

“Alive” by Jeff Jansen and Joel Ceballos