
GIVER OF

IMMORTAL GLADNESS

A SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS

===== G I V E R O F =====

I M M O R T A L
G L A D N E S S

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A SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS

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G I V E R O F

IMMORTAL
GLADNESS

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ABOUT THIS SERVICE

This service for All Saints Day rejoices in the blessings of heaven that the saints triumphant now enjoy and that we await here below. A time to remember those who have passed away in the past year is included, along with songs, words and Scripture that speak of eternal life for all the saints.

Complete worship service includes everything you need with the text of all the worship service in .rtf (rich text format), newsletter/bulletin notices, hymns, visual media recommendations, contemporary music song suggestions and PowerPoint documents of the service with images and text (along with a copyright release) for use on screens.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 14:1-14, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ [Jesus said,] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Ewing 76 76 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—
 The promise of salvation, the place of peace and rest—
 We know not, oh, we know not what joys await us there:
 The radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare!

Within those walls of Zion sounds forth the joyful song,
 As saints join with the angels and all the martyr throng.
 The Prince is ever with them; the daylight is serene;
 The city of the blessed shine bright with glorious sheen.

Around the throne of David, the saints, from care released,
 Raise loud their songs of triumph to celebrate the feast.
 They sing to Christ, their leader, who conquered in the fight,
 Who won for them forever their gleaming robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us to that eternal rest
With you and God the Father and Spirit, ever blest.

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

☐ Grace, mercy and peace be with you, O saints of the Lord. We observe All Saints today, and ponder the great love of our Savior, who has a place for each one of us in his kingdom. Those of you who have lost a loved one recently in death know what I am talking about.

In this world, we have a sense of where we are. We live on this earth, in this country, in this particular state, in this certain city or town, on a specific street in a precise neighborhood. But when we think of our loved one now gone to glory, the specifics become a little harder for us to comprehend. So we cling to what we know. We know they are with the Lord. We know that they are loved and accepted, free and forgiven, released from all pain and suffering and tears. That is good for us to remember and to know. But sometimes we want more. And in today's Gospel lesson, we get more.

Jesus talks about a house in heaven, a house that belongs to his Father, a house that has many rooms. He explains that he goes there to prepare a place for us. He gives us a concept we can work with.

A description of how homes were built in the time of Jesus gives us even further insight. You see, when a man at that time was betrothed to a woman, the first thing he did was add rooms to his father's house so that he and his new wife could have a place there. Archeologists have discovered the outlines of such homes that were expansive with room upon room upon room in a kind of labyrinth of sprawling spaces.

The son and his bride in those days came to live with the family of the father. To draw a parallel here, in a broader sense, we realize that the Son, Jesus, is getting a place ready for his Bride, the Church, in the dwelling place of his Father, our God who is seated on the throne in heaven, so that we might join with all the other people in the family of God, who already have places built for them.

It is also good for us to remember that Jesus was trained to be a carpenter by his earthly father, Joseph. He knew how to construct a dwelling place here on earth, and he knows even more about building a place for us in heaven that will house us in the midst of all immortal gladness. Our Savior knows exactly what we need to live and dwell on this earth, and he knows just what we need to live life to the fullest in the place where he will be forever. The halls of heaven echo even now with shouts of joy and happiness in the One who has brought his loved ones home, safe and sound and celebrating.

We sing “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” in our churches, God’s dwelling places here below, but we await with excited anticipation the time when we will join with all the saints in joyfully singing, “Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!” (Revelation 7:12).

What a glorious day and time that will be. But until that time we wait. We wait for the consummation of God’s plan for his people, when Christ returns to take us all, body and soul, to our specially selected rooms above. What do we do in the meantime? We do in small ways what we will do in utter fullness of joy in heaven: We praise, we sing, we worship, we join with our brothers and sisters in Christ in speaking forgiveness and love to one another. Our homes here on earth echo with praises and prayers to our God, and our doors and hearts are open to all who want to enter into the community of faith with us.

When a loved one dies, many times the first thing we do after the funeral is gather together for a meal with friends and family of the one who passed away. We surround ourselves with what St. Paul calls a “great cloud of witnesses,” those who have remained steadfast and joyful in the faith (Hebrews 12:1). These are the ones who have the same hope that we do: the sure hope of heaven and of the everlasting home that we all will enjoy together. We do not “grieve as others do who have no hope” when we gather in memory of our loved ones on the day of the funeral or on this All Saints Day (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We have an inner joy that breaks through deepest sadness, It is the joy of salvation in Jesus, the joy that carries us through the darkest valley of death to the bright light of bliss. Jesus made his home with us here on earth for a time so that we and all who believe in him might have a home with him. If this were not so, he would have told us. All you saints of God, we look forward to that day Amen.

- The **Offering** is collected at this time. If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: worshiphousemedia.com) is presented on a screen at this time for reflection on the theme of the service:

worshiphousemedia.com/worship-tracks/65495/those-who-hope

- The **Remembering the Saints** is spoken responsively by the pastor:

P O God of all the saints, we remember today the lives of those saints who have gone before us to their eternal rest in the past year. Thank you for the blessings they were to us here on earth and thank you for the blessings they now receive from you in heaven. We remember this day the life of (*speak here the names of those in your faith community who passed away in the past year, sounding a bell or chime after each name is read, if desired*). Hold them close to your heart, dear Lord, as we here on earth await the day when we will join them, too, in paradise.

C Amen.

- The **Prayers** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P O Lord, we live and move and have our being through you. We glorify you for the gift of life you have given to each one of us, and for the life you gave to our loved ones here on earth who now reside in the mansions above. Comfort us with the knowledge that they are in your perfect care, and help us to remember that you are preparing a place for us in heaven, too, where we will ever live with you in happiness and joy. Giver of immortal gladness,

C we give to you our praise.

P O Father of all, we are grateful for the family of faith that surrounds us while we live in this world. Let our bonds with our brothers and sisters in Christ grow ever stronger as we journey together toward your promised rest with all the saints. Giver of immortal gladness,

C we give to you our praise.

P Dear God, help us to live as your saints on earth by showing love, support and forgiveness to everyone we meet. Guide us to look forward to our future home with you, not dwelling too strongly on worldly possessions and accomplishments. Provide us with the vision to keep Jesus as our focus and our destination of faith. Giver of immortal gladness,

C we give to you our praise.

P Healer of all, we pray for those who are sick or injured in body, mind or soul. Cure them according to your will, and animate us to serve them in their time of need. Giver of immortal gladness,

C we give to you our praise.

P O gracious Redeemer, bring joy to the hearts of those who are celebrating weddings, anniversaries, births, birthdays and reunions. Let us rejoice with them, as you do, and may their excitement in these special moments in their lives be contagious to us all. Giver of immortal gladness,

C we give to you our praise.

P Loving Lord, be a blessing to us now in the experiences we have, the friendships we enjoy, the families we treasure and the work you have given us to do in your name. Let us continue to pray to you, read your Word and worship you regularly that we may keep getting glimpses of your glory, even in our everyday tasks. Restore to us the joy of your salvation day after day. Giver of immortal gladness,

C we give to you our praise. Amen.