
G I V E R O F

IMMORTAL GLADNESS

A SERMON FOR ALL SAINTS

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- 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