



# With Trumpet Sound



SERMONS FOR ALL SAINTS

# With Trumpet Sound

SERMONS FOR ALL SAINTS

## SERMON

**P** Grace, mercy and peace be with you on this celebration of All Saints. At the coronation of Prince Charles in Great Britain on May 6, 2023, state trumpeters heralded the new King from the balcony above Friary Court at St. James' Palace, as the Principal Proclamation of Charles III was read by The Garter King of Arms. This was a moment most worthy of trumpet fanfare. When a trumpet sounds, it usually indicates something very important or meaningful is about to happen or has already happened.

We focus today on the trumpet sound mentioned in Scripture that will accompany the entrance of Jesus into the world on the Last Day. We don't know when that day will be, of course, or if it will be in our lifetimes. But if it is, we do know that the trumpet call on that glorious day will mark the end of the earth as we know it and the beginning of our new life in heaven. We are now the saints of earth, but then we will be the saints of heaven, along with all those who have already tasted death and been raised to life eternal with our Lord. No longer will we be a people separated by the bounds of earth, but we will be one body of Christ, residing only in heaven.

It will be a day when we will see for the first time all those who went before and whom we honor and remember on this All Saints Day. This day in the Church Year is one way for us to get a glimpse of what is to come for all God's people even as we remember the good times and the happy moments and love we shared with family and friends who are no longer with us.

All Saints Day is a special time to trumpet, if just for a little while, the goodness of God shown in the lives of our loved ones now gone from our lives for a time. We remember conversations

we had, meals we had, weddings, births, birthdays, vacations, lazy Sunday afternoons with those now departed. We miss them and love them even now. And yet, we thank God for the love they showed, the kindness they shared, the memories they made, the relationships they built, the projects they completed, the talents and abilities they displayed by God's grace and favor. We were also blessed by their encouragement and support, their stamina and strength in hard times. We were graced by their forgiveness and acceptance, their welcoming demeanor and their shoulder to cry on. We do not know if we would be the people we are today, if not for them. And for all of that, we give God thanks this day. Only through the mercy and guidance of God were we even friends, neighbors, siblings, spouses, classmates, workmates, fellow church members and more.

But in a remarkable way, All Saints Day takes us outside of ourselves and beyond the lives of our loved ones here on earth. All Saints Day loudly trumpets to everyone that life in Christ is bigger than anything we could even ask, think, feel or imagine on our own. Life is so much more than our day-to-day triumphs and struggles. Our bonds with each other and with God go much deeper, and we will only realize how deep when we see Christ face-to-face on the Last Day. That is for certain.

The trumpet will sound, and our connection to Christ will be assured. The trumpet will sound, and our future days will be secured forever. The trumpet will sound, and our tears will be wiped away. The trumpet will sound, and our joy will be complete.

How is this possible? And how did all of this happen? Only through the death and resurrection of Christ. It was on the cross that Jesus said in a very loud voice: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It must have sounded like a blood-curdling shriek or an emergency siren. Christ became sin for us in that moment. He became nothing for us so that we might have everything through his sacrifice. Christ died so that grace, mercy and peace would abound for us, and so that we would never ever be cut off from God again because of our sinfulness. As forgiven and free people of the cross, we know that the sting of death has been removed. Death is no longer a dead end but a passage through to a life where grief and sorrow are no more and only praise and thanksgiving come forth from our mouths. We cannot even comprehend of a place where only unconditional love resides and no one is left out in the cold.

The concept of a trumpet call brings home to us that we will be notified quite clearly when the Last Day comes, that Jesus is making his presence known to all the world at the same time in a most dramatic way. His reign as king over heaven and earth will be acknowledged and felt throughout every hill and valley, mountain and plain. Everyone will hear the call of the trumpet, and no one will want to turn away from its sound. Our ears will perk up to listen to the Lord and come to him, where he is, to be blessed and restored and embraced by his care.

When Jesus was baptized and then when he was transfigured, the voice of God called out from heaven: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5).