

PROPERthoughts

All Saints' Day

Lessons for ALL SAINTS

November 1

Psalm 31:1-5 ~ *David's prayer in severe circumstances, entrusting himself to God.*

Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17 ~ *John saw the multitude of saints in glory serving the Lamb at His throne.*

1 John 3:1-3 ~ *God loves us so much that He called us to be His children, and made us His for eternity!*

Matthew 5:1-12 ~ *Jesus revealed the true nature of blessings in the Kingdom of God.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: From Death to Life

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" (Isaiah 43:1) With these words, God reminds us that we and those believers who have gone before us are saints (that is "holy ones") because of His action. No other truth brings as much comfort. If sainthood were up to us by good works, our hope would be uncertain at best and futile at worst. We would be lost for sure and there would be no celebration today. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57)

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Gracious and eternal God, be with me in suffering and in death to strengthen and comfort me by your Holy Spirit. Keep me in the true faith and give me peace and joy in the assurance of the resurrection of the dead and the glory of life everlasting through Jesus Christ, your Son, my risen Lord. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: Because we know that our citizenship is in heaven where we have an everlasting inheritance, we are free to be generous with the earthly goods God places in our care. Our use of these blessings should bring eternal blessing to the lives of the poor, the meek, the mournful, and those who seek justice.

OFFERING PRAYER: Blessings abound in the power of Your Word;
Blessed are we in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
Grant that these offerings we bring may secure
Blessings eternal for meek and for poor. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: We do not recognize the saints of God because we see things in earth's perspective and from our point of view, where joy and wealth and power and fame are the blessings we seek. Surely the Lord knows who His saints are because He has clothed them with the robe of Christ's righteousness. When we are known by Him, we are called children of God - and called to be His children. Then opportunities to serve become blessings, and even persecution becomes a sign of our identity as a saint of God's grace.

Questions to Consider: What do Saints look like?

- How was John able to recognize the multitude as saints?
- Do saints look different in heaven than they do on earth?
- What kinds of blessings do saints enjoy?
- What makes us saints?