

ALL SAINTS' DAY (OBSERVED)

Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ



Background: The festival of Halloween (ALL HALLOW EVE) sort of clouds the celebration of All Saints Day. Candles and lighting areas are associated with this festival. In the United States it is often a Jack o 'Lantern pumpkin. But as seen in the picture from Spain, Christian communities go to extraordinary lengths to

Flowers deposited on All Saints' Day in tombs in the cemetery of [Cambados, Spain](#) recognize the past patrons that have entered eternal glory. A bell will be towed in our church to recognize all the members that have passed away in the past year. Equally important, we want to recognize those who have brought us to faith – Grandmothers and grandfathers, parents, fellow members of our church, pastors and teachers. Of course, they all sowed the seeds of faith, so the Holy spirit could bring saving faith into our hearts and minds. So we recognize how much we have been blessed to know God's plan of Salvation, and we share this Good News with the next generation and those around us.

The Lessons: Revelation 7:(2–8) 9–17, 1 John 3:1–3, & Matthew 5:1–12

“A great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages” cry out, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne” (Rev. 7:9–10). Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, “shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). Joined with the throng of angels and countless saints, we shall “serve him day and night in his temple” (Rev. 7:15). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).