

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 5 we celebrate All Saints Day. It is the Sunday we remember the entire communion of saints, especially those who have gone from the Church Militant (the church on earth) to the Church Triumphant (heaven). Lutherans remember especially, by name, those in the church who have died in the past year. This year we will remember Bill Lindauer, Martha Flanagan, Jimmy Peal, Leslie Thompson, and Deacon Bob DePugh.

A little history about All Saints Day: Pope Gregory III (731–741) is credited with establishing Nov 1 as All Saints Day, a festival commemorating the named Saints of the Roman Catholic Church, the martyrs, the holy apostles, and “all the just made perfect who are at rest”. In medieval England the festival was known as All Hallows, and its eve is still known as Halloween. The period from October 31 to November 2 (All Souls’ Day) is sometimes known as *Allhallowtide*.

“**For All the Saints**”, a majestic hymn long associated with All Saints Day is our processional (verses 1-4) and our recessional (v. 5-8) hymn. “For All the Saints” was written by an Anglican bishop, William How in 1864. How’s lyrics provide a wide and sweeping vision of the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant. The imagery is regal and joyful, its poetry majestic and masterful. It wasn’t until 1906 that the For All the Saints poem was set to the tune we know and sing today. Ralph Vaughn Williams, a well-known English composer of the 20th century, composed the tune which he named “*Sine Nomine*”—Latin for “without a name”, acknowledging the communion of saints, known and unknown—named and unnamed. Williams’ original score wraps six unison verses around two four-part harmonized verses, bridged with refrain-like Alleluias. Ah, what a hymn! What a sweeping vision and wondrous celebration of the Christian life. Though the battle be now engaged, victory is sure if we but stand firm and hold to God’s unchanging hand. We sing with gusto those magnificent opening words, “*For all the saints who from their labors rest,*” especially our brothers and sisters—Bill, Jimmy, Deacon Bob, Martha, and Leslie—who entered the Church Triumphant this year.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP TO REMEMBER ALL THE SAINTS IN OUR LIVES

Daylight Savings time ends 12 midnight Nov 5. You get an extra hour of sleep before coming to worship at 10:AM EST!