FOR ALL THE SAINTS

Hymn Devotion - November 1

Scripture – Ephesians 2:19-22

 Revelation 14:13

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,

Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,

Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;

Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;

Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,

Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,

And win with them the victor’s crown of gold.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!

We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;

Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,

Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,

And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,

Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

*William Walsham How (1823-1897)*

 This hymn not only gives tribute to the saints who professed their faith in Jesus and are at rest – citing Jesus as their rock, fortress and might but also gives the saints struggling feebly on this side of heaven the bravery and strength to go on - we can hear the distant triumph song – the song of praise to the Triune God! Alleluia – Praise be to God!

1. What saints was this hymn written for?
2. What did they do before the world?
3. Who should be forever blest?
4. Verse 2: What are all the things God was to the saints?
5. How is the Lord described and how was the fight fought?
6. When is He our one true light?
7. Verse 3: How are the living saints described?
8. How are saints now to fight?
9. What will the saints now win with the saints of old?
10. Verse 4: What do saints have?
11. Describe the contrast between saints now and saints in heaven:
12. What are all saints?

Finish the thought – For all are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Verse 5: How are strife and warfare described?
2. When we hear the distant triumph song – What happens?
3. Verse 6: How is the earth described?
4. How do the heavenly realms enter?
5. What are we all doing together?
6. What are the repeated words in each stanza?

ZION, TO THY SAVIOR SINGING

Hymn Devotion - November 2

Scripture – John 6:56-58

Zion, to Thy Savior singing,
To thy Prince and Shepherd bringing,
Sweetest hymns of love and praise,
Thou wilt never reach the measure
Of His worth, by all the treasure
Of thy most ecstatic lays.

Of all wonders that can thrill thee,
And, with adoration fill thee,
What than this can greater be,
That Himself to thee He giveth?
He that eateth ever liveth,
For the Bread of Life is He.

Fill thy lips to overflowing
With sweet praise, His mercy showing
Who this heav’nly table spread:
On this day so glad and holy,
To each longing spirit lowly
Giveth He the living Bread.

Here the King hath spread His table,
Whereon eyes of faith are able
Christ our Passover to trace:
Shadows of the law are going,
Light and life and truth inflowing,
Night to day is giving place.

O Good Shepherd, Bread life giving,
Us, Thy grace and life receiving,
Feed and shelter evermore;
Thou on earth our weakness guiding,
We in Heav’n with Thee abiding,
With all saints will Thee adore.

Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-1274)

Translated by Alexander R. Thompson

 (1822-1895)

 We cannot give enough hymn singing and praise to Jesus, we can never reach the measure of His worth because He gave Himself for us – each time we take Communion, praise Him but also remember that He is the Bread of Life – giving life to those who through faith accept His light, life and truth!

1. Who is Zion singing to?
2. How is the Savior described?
3. How are the hymns described?
4. What will we never reach?
5. Verse 2: What thrills and fills us?
6. What is greater?
7. What is He?
8. Verse 3: What is overflowing from our lips?
9. How is His mercy shown?
10. How is the day of Communion (Lord’s Supper) described?
11. How are those to receive Communion described?
12. How is the bread described?
13. Verse 4: Who has spread His table?
14. What kind of eyes?
15. What is traced through Christ?
16. What are going?
17. What is inflowing?
18. What is giving place?
19. Verse 5: How is Jesus described?
20. What is the Bread?
21. What are we receiving?
22. What will this do evermore?
23. What does He do on earth?
24. What will we do with Him in heaven?
25. What will all saints do in heaven?

GOD OF EARTH, THE SKY, THE SEA

Hymn Devotion – November 3

Scripture – Acts 17:24-28

 Psalm 50:12

God of the earth, the sky, the sea,

Maker of all above below,

Creation lives and moves in Thee,

Thy present life through all doth flow.

Thy love is in the sunshine’s glow,

Thy life is in the quickening air;

When lightnings flash and storm winds blow,

There is Thy power; Thy law is there.

We feel Thy calm at evening’s hour,

Thy grandeur in the march of night;

And when the morning breaks in power,

We hear Thy word, “Let there be light!”

But higher far, and far more clear,

Thee in man’s spirit we behold;

Thine image and Thyself are there,

Th’indwelling God, proclaimed of old.

Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

The internet version has a chorus:

We give Thee thanks, Thy Name we sing,

Almighty Father, heavenly King.

 God’s personality is displayed in nature – the warm glow of sunshine is God’s love – the quickening air is God giving life – God’s power is in the lightning and storm winds – but far higher and far more clear is God in man’s spirit – God’s image and Thyself – God’s personality are there – are in us – He is indwelling and has been of old – time past and will be forevermore! Thanks be to God!

1. What is God the God of?
2. What is maker of?
3. What does creation do?
4. What flows through God?
5. Verse 2: What is in the sunshine’s glow?
6. What is in the quickening air?
7. What shows God’s power?
8. What governs nature?
9. Verse 3: When do we feel calm?
10. What has grandeur?
11. How does morning break?
12. What words do we hear?
13. Verse 4: What is far higher and far clearer?
14. What is there?
15. How is God in us?
16. When was this proclaimed?

TEACH ME, MY GOD AND KING

Hymn Devotion-November 4

Scripture – I Corinthians 10:31-11:1

 Psalm 86:11

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything
To do it as for Thee.

A man that looks on glass,
On it may stay his eye;
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.

All may of Thee partake;
Nothing so small can be
But draws, when acted for Thy sake,
Greatness and worth from Thee.

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be sold.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

 After being taught His ways – Psalm 86:11 – then we must continue to grow – Hebrews 5:13 – and be motivated to look beyond the obvious to get the glimpse of heaven.

 No matter what we do for Christ is important, nothing is too small as long as we do it for the sake of Christ – I Corinthians 10:31 - He will turn whatever we do into “gold” make it to His honor and glory.

 We must first be willing to be taught to see God in all things and to work not for man but for God.

1. What are we asking to be done?
2. How is God addressed?
3. What do we want to see in all things?
4. Who do we want all we do to be for?
5. Verse 2: What may our eyes be stayed on?
6. What can we be pleased to do?
7. What will we espy – catch sight of?
8. Verse 3: What can we do?
9. Is anything too small?
10. Whose sake are we to act upon?
11. What will be drawn?
12. Verse 4: Who is the famous stone?
13. What is all we do for Him turned into?
14. What does God do to us?
15. What cannot happen?

O CHRIST, OUR KING, CREATOR, LORD

Hymn Devotion – November 5

Scripture – Matthew 27:50-52, 54

 John 20:8

O Christ, our King, Creator, Lord,
Savior of all who trust Thy Word,
To them who seek Thee ever near,
Now to our praises bend Thine ear.

In Thy dear cross a grace is found,
It flows from every streaming wound,
Whose power our inbred sin controls,
Breaks the firm bond, and frees our souls.

Thou didst create the stars of night,
Yet Thou hast veiled in flesh Thy light,
Hast deigned a mortal form to wear,
A mortal’s painful lot to bear.

When Thou didst hang upon the tree,
The quaking earth acknowledged Thee,
When Thou didst there yield up Thy breath
The world grew dark as shades of death.

Now in the Father’s glory high
Great Conqueror, never more to die,
Us by Thy mighty power defend,
And reign through ages without end.

Gregory the Great (540-604)

Translated by Ray Palmer (1808-1887)

 Trusting God’s Word, seeking to have Him near – realizing the one who created the earth, came down in mortal form, suffered mortal’s pain – the earth acknowledged Jesus when He was crucified when there was an earthquake – seems to take a monumental action to have Jesus acknowledged. We need to seek to have God near and bend His ear with praise!

1. What is God to those who trust Thy Word?
2. What do we seek God to be?
3. What are we bending His ear with?
4. Verse 2: Where is grace found?
5. Where does this grace flow?
6. How is sin described?
7. What does grace break and free?
8. Verse 3: What did Jesus do?
9. What is veiled in flesh?
10. What did He deign – lower Himself – to wear?
11. What then did He bear?
12. Verse 4: What happened when Jesus hung upon the tree – the cross?
13. What happened when He gave up His breath?
14. Verse 5: Where is Jesus now?
15. How is Jesus described?
16. What is His future?
17. How are we defended?
18. What will He do?

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses’ sister aided him;
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?
Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears?
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound;
Pray, Oh pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.
Then He’ll call us home to Heaven, at His table we’ll sit down;
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

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