



:: Call to Worship// Ps. 100: 1-5

:: Song//For All the Saints [TFWS #2283]

I: For all the saints who've shown your love
In how they live and where they move,
For mindful women, caring men
Accept our gratitude again

II: For all the saints who named your will
And showed the kingdom coming still
Through selfless protest prayer and praise
Accept the gratitude we raise

III: Bless all whose will or name or love
Reflects the grace of heaven above
Though unclaimed by earthly powers
Your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

:: A Reading [Mt. 5:1-12, CEB]

Jesus teaches how God's kingdom is reordering the life of the world. God is actively

blessing those who live this way. Here is the heart of Wesley's understanding of the possibility of all Christians becoming saints; or, as he would put it, allowing "sanctifying grace" to complete its work in us. Sainthood is not something reserved for a special few, but available to all who let God's grace align their lives with what God is already blessing.

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. 2 He taught them, saying:

3 "Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

4 "Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

5 "Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

6 "Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

7 "Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

8 "Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

9 "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children.

10 "Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

11 "Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. 12 Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

:: Prayer [by Safiyah Fosua]

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you
Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals,
Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses
Where your name was lifted and adored.
We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:
Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil,
Strong hands and those gnarled with age
Holy hands
Used as wave offerings across the land.
We thank you, God, for hardworking saints;
Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted,
Head ragged or aproned,
Blue-collared or three-piece-suited
They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.
Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.
Bless the memories of your saints, God.
May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

:: Remembering the Saints

Who are the saints who have shaped your life of faith? Who makes up the great cloud of witnesses who surround you? Who would list you in their cloud of witnesses?

:: Prayers of the People

After sharing your prayer, end with: **God of love and grace**
And the people will respond: **We trust this prayer.**

:: Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

:: Exchange signs of Peace