

The Hymn of the Day for All Saints Sunday is “For All the Saints.”(LSB 677)

While this hymn’s title deals with saints, it is really all about what the Lord Jesus has done. We honor and remember the saints that have gone before us. We do not pray to them or worship them.

Hebrews 12:1–3 is the Scriptural basis of this hymn. It begins with the phrase *therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses*. This reminds us of Hebrews 11 where goodly numbers have lived *by faith*.

Stanza 1 speaks of the rest from the labors the saints performed by faith. These tasks were a confession of God. They were not performed to gain salvation but reflected their faith in action.

Stanza 2 praises Jesus for being their *rock, fortress, and their might...their captain*. Because of sin, living in this life as child of God is a daily battle. It is a war that was won because of Jesus.

Stanzas 3 and 4 continue a description of the struggle that the saints here on earth face.

Stanza 5 speaks of the earthly fight of faith as a *fierce and the warfare long*. The outcome, however, is victory in the *distant triumph song*.

Stanzas 6–8 draw our eyes to the same rest that began the hymn. *The golden evening brightens* remind me of the many times I traveled home on Interstate 69 at the setting of the sun. It was a time when I would soon be home with my loving family. It called to mind a time of *breaking a yet more glorious day* in stanza 7. Stanza 8 pictures the glorious time when we will see *the countless host* that will greet us. There we will be at home with all the saints that have gone before.

The verses of Hebrews 12:2-3 speak of the many actions Jesus endured so that we might be saved for eternity.

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for All Saints’ Day)