



LESSONS FOR CHILDREN
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS



CHILDREN'S
CHAPEL

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

I Sing A Song of the Saints of God

1.

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

2.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

3.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

For All the Saints, Who From Their Labors Rest

1.

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever bless'd.
Alleluia, alleluia!

2.

Thou wast their rock, their refuge, and their might,
thou, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, their true and shining light.
Alleluia, alleluia!

3.

Oh, bless'd communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!

4.

The golden evening brightens in the west.
Soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest.
Sweet is the calm of paradise the bless'd.
Alleluia, alleluia!

5.

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array,
as God to glory calls them all away.
Alleluia, alleluia!

6.

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest
coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
*all praising Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Feast of All Saints

November 1 is a special day called The Feast of All Saints. It is the day the Church celebrates with all the people who have died and are now with God in Heaven.

Saints are people who love Jesus and share his love with others. Everyone who has lived and died in Jesus' love is a saint. Some of these people are members of our family, our friends, and our neighbors. We do know the names of all the saints.

Some of the people we remember are either from the Bible or from the very earliest days of Christianity. These are people that we call saints with a capital "S." Churches are sometimes named after these people. Our church is named after Saint Mark



Saint Mark



Saint Mark

Mark the Evangelist is the saint for whom Saint Mark's is named.

We don't really know very much about Mark. He may have been someone who followed Jesus as a very young person. He may have been with Paul on one of his journeys. If he was the Mark that travelled with Paul, he turned back from that journey and Paul was not happy with him.

He also seems to have been a companion and co-worker with Peter. Peter called him "son".

Scholars think that Mark wrote his gospel in Rome between 60 and 70 AD, which is between 30 and 40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. Many of the stories included in the gospel probably were told a lot by the early Christians during those years. It is also possible that Mark heard some of the stories and teachings directly from Peter himself.

The Gospel of Mark was one of the earliest gospels. The Gospels of Luke & Matthew include most of the stories from the Gospel of Mark. It is clear that the early Christians were greatly influenced by Mark's story of Jesus.

Saint Mark

Mark's gospel to deepen the faith of the members of his community. When Mark was writing his gospel, the early Christians were facing persecution from the Roman authorities. They needed to be able to face persecution and to stand up for their faith.

When Mark was writing his gospel, the people who knew Jesus, who had heard him teach, were starting to die. So, it was very important to write down the stories of Jesus so that Christians would have them even when the people who knew Jesus were gone. That was another reason that Mark wrote his gospel.

More Images of Saint Mark





The Feast of All Saints

Some of the people we remember are Christians who lived a long time ago.

The stories of these people have inspired Christians for hundreds of years.

Catherine of Sienna was one of those Saints.



Catherine of Sienna

Catherine of Sienna

Catherine was the youngest of 25 children. She was born in the city of Sienna in Italy. Her father was someone who dyed cloth for a living and he was very wealthy.

When she was six years old she had a vision of Jesus sitting with Peter, Paul and John. She saw Jesus smiling at her and blessing her.

From then on, Catherine spent most of her time in prayer. Her mother wanted her to be like most other girls. Catherine cut off all of her hair so that her mother would leave her alone. Finally she was allowed to become a nun.

Catherine struggled with her faith, and sometimes she felt that God had abandoned her, but she kept praying and kept trying to be closer to God. She became a nurse and cared for very sick people, especially ones that other nurses were afraid to take care of.

Catherine of Sienna

Not everyone thought that Catherine was a good example during her lifetime. Some people thought that she went too far. Over time people turned to her more and more. She visited prisoners, took care of the sick during a pandemic and was called upon to settle arguments and help people who were searching for God.

During Catherine's life there were several big fights in the church. Catherine wrote to bishops, princes, kings and popes urging them to come together and settle their differences. She also wrote about her search for God.

Catherine was 33 years old when she died.

Catherine of Sienna

Catherine wrote letters giving advice and encouraging people to live in peace.

Think of someone you know who could use some advice or encouragement. It could be someone in your family, a neighbor, a classmate, a famous person, or a friend. Write a letter to them with words of encouragement and advice. Cut the letter out and send it if possible.

Date: _____

Dear: _____

Your friend,

The Feast of All Saints

Some of the people that we remember lived very recently. It is a rule that you have to have died before we can think about adding you to the list of people that we remember. In the Episcopal Church the list of Saints is decided at the General Convention.

There is a proposal that Barbara Harris gets added to the list of people we remember.



The Rt. Rev.
Barbara Harris

Barbara Harris

Barbara Clementine Harris was a bishop of the Episcopal in the United States. She was the first woman consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Communion. The Anglican Communion is a group of 39 churches all over the world, including the Episcopal Church, the Church of England, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Church of India and many others.

She was elected suffragan bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, on September 24, 1988, and was consecrated on February 11, 1989. She served in the role of suffragan bishop for 13 years, retiring in 2003.

Barbara Clementine Harris was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 1930. Prior to her ordination to the priesthood, she served as head of public relations for the Sun Oil Company.

Harris was active in civil rights issues, participating in freedom rides and marches in the 1960s, including the Selma to Montgomery led by Martin Luther King, Jr. She spent summer vacations registering black voters in Greenville, Mississippi. She dismissed the risks she took, saying only, "Everyone was in danger."

Barbara Harris

Throughout her various careers, Harris was noted for her liberal views and her outspokenness. She argued for gay rights and challenged the Episcopal Church to deal with issues of racism and sexism.

She was the first woman to be elected to the position of bishop not only in the Episcopal Church, but in all of the Anglican Communion. Some members of the church felt it was inappropriate for a woman to be a bishop. Because she was a woman and an African American, she received death threats and obscene messages.

Harris served for 13 years as bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. She then served as assisting bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC, until 2007.

She continued to travel and give sermons and teach people almost until she died. She died in March of 2020.



What Are Some Characteristics of a Saint?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



These People Show Me What it Means to be a Saint

Everyone who follows Jesus is a saint. We all have people in our lives who show us what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who are the people you can think of who show you what it means to follow Jesus?

Saints were people just like us. They felt hungry, tired, angry, and disappointed sometimes, just as we do. But the saints did difficult things even when they didn't want to because they loved God.

Think of one thing you will do today because you love God.

In your heart, promise that you will do it even if it is hard.

Dear God, please help me to be a saint,
loving You and others with all my heart.

