



# Sermon Study Guide for November 5, 2017

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

[www.oursaviorlansing.org](http://www.oursaviorlansing.org)

**Theme:** When the New Testament speaks of ‘saints’ – it is always referring to *all* believers in Christ. You are a saint! That being said, we are also sinful human beings who struggle daily with sin. Martin Luther coined the phrase: *simul justus et peccator* = Simultaneously saint and sinner. There will be a day, however, when our struggles will be over, strivings cease, conflict resolved, and God glorified. We acknowledge the saints who have gone before us and now are in the presence of the Lord, rejoicing in His perfect peace and amazing grace.

## Getting Started:

1. What is one question about heaven that you have always had?
2. Has the Lord called home someone that you loved or knew this past year?

## In the Word: Read 1 John 3:1-3

3. The NIV uses the phrase “*what great love the Father has lavished on us.*” What does this way of speaking convey about God’s love and how it comes to us?
4. God’s love, poured out in Christ Jesus, has made us to be His own children. Not everyone is a child of God. What makes us children of the Heavenly Father? (see John 1:12-13)
5. John writes, “*What we will be has not yet been made known.*” We live in the “now and not yet.” What are the blessings we have through faith in Jesus NOW, and what are the blessings of heaven that are NOT YET, as we wait until we stand in the presence of Jesus in heaven?

Blessings we have NOW in Christ:

Blessings we have NOT YET in Christ:

### **Read Revelation 7:9-17**

6. John's vision is a glimpse right into heaven, and the worship of all the saints above and angels in the spiritual realms. What a marvelous and holy sight! What part of this heavenly description most captures your heart and attention?
7. How are the robes of the saints made white out of the blood (which is red) of the Lamb? (cf. 1 John 1:7)
8. How are these saints cared for in the presence of the Lord? (vs. 15-17)

### **Bringing it Together:**

9. Have you had a "glimpse of heaven," either in worship, or in a cross-cultural setting, or somewhere that made you imagine "this is what heaven must be like"?
10. What is one thing that you want to ask God about when you get to heaven?
11. How does this revelation of heavenly worship give believers strength and confidence when facing the challenges of life?
12. In worship, especially when we kneel at the rail for Holy Communion, we are the closest to the saints in heaven, who are worshipping the Lord in the presence of Jesus. How does that enhance our understanding of weekly worship – "with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven..."?

**Prayer:** In your prayer time, ascribe to God praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength. Give thanks for all the saints, who from their labors rest. Ask God to strengthen us on our earthly journey, until we reach the heavenly celebrations.

**Next Week:** Guest preacher Travis Hartjen will be preaching on 1 Timothy 1:15-17, and how Jesus came to save sinners, all by grace. Please keep the PURE event on November 12 in your prayers! (Pastor Hartjen is the speaker for the PURE event that afternoon)