

By All Your Saints Still Striving



lyrics by
Horatio Bolton Nelson

music by
A. Fletcher Clark III

*Five distinct musical settings for the twenty-three
different feast days celebrated in the church.*



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'By All Your Saints Still Striving' was first published in 1864, written by Earl Horatio Bolton Nelson (1823-1913). Nelson was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, and a relative of England's greatest naval hero. An active layman, he had been of service to the Church in many of her religious and benevolent enterprises. Lockhart, Texas composer Fletcher Clark has created new musical settings for this beloved hymn.



While his own hymns are most creditable, Nelson was foremost in compiling in 1857 the 'Sarum Hymnal', with the assistance of John Keble, at the request of the Bishop of Salisbury (originally titled 'The Salisbury Hymn Book'). Its popularity was very great. This hymn was suggested to the author by the hymn, 'Ye saints! in blest communion', by Dr. Monsell, in his 'Hymns of Love and Praise', 1863; the design being the same, which is to furnish a general beginning and ending suitable for a hymn for any special Saint's Day, and to supply intermediate stanzas suitable for the persons specially to be commemorated. It was first published in a small volume entitled, 'Hymn for Saints' Day, and other Hymns, By a Layman', 1864. Some verses were contributed by friends of the author; and the whole was revised by himself for the 'Sarum Hymnal' in 1868. (Originally, the first line read, "From all Thy saints in warfare, for all Thy saints at rest," and still appears that way in some hymnals.)

Fr. Tom Bruns of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Lockhart, Texas, has a penchant for celebrating and imparting the significance of the lives of the Saints. There are 23 saint's days celebrated in Nelson's lyrics, Feasts Days specified in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. A verse for each occasion is used for the middle verse of the three verse hymn, while verses 1 and 3 consistently begin and conclude the hymn. (In the Episcopal Church, it is customary not to celebrate such Feast Days when they fall on a Sunday service day.) As part of his musical ministry, Fletcher regularly features a 'Hymn of the Week' story, which may then become a 'Saint of the Week' story, on-line or for the Sunday service sheet.

Complete lyrics for all the feast days are included after the music.



There are two distinct musical settings traditionally found in both the Episcopal and Lutheran hymnals, both in duple meter: the Finnish folk tune *Nyland*, in major mode; and the English folk tune *King's Lynn*, in minor (strictly, aeolian) mode. Clark has created newer and more modern settings for the text: in both major and minor modes; in both duple and triple meters; as well as in cut time.

Fletcher Clark's settings offer variety, not merely to avoid musical redundancy in repeated use over the church calendar year, but to make the hymn appropriate for various parts of the service: as Processional, Offertory, Gradual/Sequence, Communion Hymn, and Recessional. Different tempi and dynamics convey solemnity or jubilation, piety or gaiety. The versions may be variously suitable for choirs, congregational singing, and soloists. Accompaniment may be organ, piano, or a 'folk' ensemble.

The basic melodies and chords below illustrate the various versions (also available to be inserted in a Sunday service sheet for the congregation). Then follows the hymnal renditions for each version. Standard SATB choral renditions are also available.

By all Your saints still striv - ing, for all Your saints at rest. —
 — Your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er more be blessed. — You
 rose, our King, vic - tor - i - ous, that they might wear the crown, — and ev - er
 shine in splen - dor re - flect - ed from Your throne.

By all Your saints still striv - ing, for all Your saints at rest. Your
 ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er more be blessed. You rose, our King, vic -
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 blessed. — You rose, our King, vic - tor - i - ous, that they might wear the
 crown, — and ev - er shine in splen -
 dor re - flect - ed from Your throne.

By All Your Saints Still Striving

Horatio Bolton Nelson (1823-1913)

setting by Fletcher Clark

Brightly (♩ = 138)

November 1, All Saint's Day

1. By all Your saints still striv - ing, for all Your saints at rest. —
2. A - pos - tles, pro - phets, mar - tyr, and all the no - ble thron -
3. Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son; —

8
— Your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er more be - blessed. — You
— who wear the spot - less rai - ment and raise the cease - less song: — for
— and sing to God the Spi - rit, e - ter - nal Three in One, — 'til

17
rose, our King, vic - tor - i - ous, that they might wear the crown, — and
them and those who wit - ness is on - ly known to You - — by
all the ran - somed num - ber who stand be - fore the throne, — a -

25
ev - er shine in splen - dor re - flect - ed from Your throne.
walk - ing in their foot - steps we give you praise a - new. —
scribe all power and glo - ry and praise to God a - bove.

BY ALL YOUR SAINTS STILL STRIVING

Horatio Bolton Nelson (1823-1913)

1. BY ALL YOUR SAINTS STILL STRIVING, for all Your saints at rest,
Your holy Name, O Jesus for ever more be blessed.
You rose, our King victorious, that they might bear the crown
And ever shine in splendor, reflected from Your throne.

2. November 1, All Saints Day

Apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all the noble throng
Who wear the spotless raiment and raise the ceaseless song:
For them and those whose witness is only known to You –
By walking in their footsteps we give You praise anew.

3. Then let us praise the Father and worship God the Son,
And sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,
'Til all the ransomed number who stand before the throne
Ascribe all power and glory and praise to God alone.

Alternate middle verse as shown below correspond to celebrated Feast Days; various settings of different meter and mode can be used for variety over the course of the church year.

1. November 30, Saint Andrew

All praise, O Lord, for Andrew, the first to follow You;
He witnessed to his brother, "This is Messiah true."
You called him from his fishing upon Lake Galilee;
He rose to meet the challenge, "Leave all and follow me."

2. December 21, Saint Thomas

All praise, O Lord, for Thomas whose short-lived doubtings prove
Your perfect two-fold nature, the depth of Your true love.
To all who live in questions a stead-fast faith afford;
And grant us grace to know you, made flesh, yet God and Lord.

3. December 26, Saint Stephen

All praise. O Lord, for Stephen who, martyred, saw You stand
To help in time of torment, to plead at God's right hand.
Like you, our suffering Savior, his enemies he blessed,
With "Lord, receive my spirit," his faith, in death, con-fessed.

4. December 27, Saint John

For John, Your loved disciple, exiled to Patmos' shore,
And for his faithful record, we praise you evermore;
Praise for the mystic vision his words to us unfold.
In-still in us his longing, Your glory to behold.

5. December 28, The Holy Innocents

Praise for Your infant martyrs, whom Your mysterious love
Called early from life's conflicts to share Your peace above;
O Rachel, cease your weeping; they're free from pain and cares.
Lord, grant us crowns as brilliant and lives as pure as their.

6. January 18, Saint Peter

We praise, You Lord, for Peter, so eager and so bold:
Thrice falling, yet repentant, thrice charged to feed Your fold.
Lord, make Your pastors faithful to guard your flock from harm
And hold them when they waver with Your almighty arm.

7. January 25, Saint Paul

Praise for the light from heaven and for the voice of awe.
Praise for the glorious vision the persecutor saw.
O Lord, for Paul's conversion, we bless Your Name today.
Come shine within our darkness and guide us in the Way.

8. February 24, Saint Matthias

For one in place of Judas, the apostles sought God's choice.
The lot fell to Matthias for whom we now rejoice.
May we like true apostles Your holy Church defend,
And not betray our calling but serve You to the end.

9. March 19, Saint Joseph

All praise, O God, for Joseph, the guard-ian of Your Son.
Who saved him from King Her-rod when safety there was none.
He taught the trade of builder, when they to Nazareth came,
And Joseph's love made "Father" to be, for Christ, God's Name.

10. April 25, Saint Mark

For Mark, O Lord, we praise you, the weak by grace made strong:
His witness in his Gospel becomes victorious song.
May we, in all our weakness, receive Your power divine,
And all, as faithful branches grow strong in you, the Vine.

11. May 1, Saint Philip and Saint James

We praise you, Lord, for Philip, blest guide to Greek and Jew,
And for young James the faithful, who heard and followed You.
O grant us grace to know You, the victor in our strife,
That we with all Your servants may wear the crown of life.

12. June 11, Saint Barnabas

For Barnabas, we praise You, who kept Your law of love;
And leaving earthly treasures, sought riches from above.
O Christ, our Lord and Savior, let gifts of grace descend,
That Your true consolation may through the world extend.

13. June 24, The Nativity of John the Baptist

All praise for John the Baptist, forerunner of the Word;
Our true Elijah, making a highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet, he saw the dawning ray
Of light that grows in splendor until the perfect day.

14. June 29, Saint Peter & Saint Paul

We praise You for Saint Peter, we praise You for Saint Paul.
They taught both Jew and Gentile that Christ is all in all.
To cross and sword they yielded, and saw the kingdom come.
O God, your two apostles won life through martyrdom.

15. July 22, Saint Mary Magdalene

All praise for Mary Magdalene, whose wholeness was restored
By You, her faithful Master, her Savior and her Lord.
On Easter morning early, a word from You sufficed:
Her faith was first to see You, her Lord, the risen Christ.

16. July 25, Saint James

O Lord, for James, we praise You, who fell to Herod's sword.
He drank the cup of suffering and thus fulfilled Your word.
Lord, curb our vain impatience for glory and for fame;
Equip us for such sufferings as glorify Your name.

17. August 15, Saint Mary the Virgin

We sing with joy of Mary, whose heart with awe was stirred
When, youthful and unready, she heard the angel's word;
Yet she her voice upraises, God's glory to proclaim,
As once for our salvation Your mother she became.

18. August 24, for Saint Bartholomew

Praise for Your blest apostle, surnamed Bartholemew.
We know not his achievements, but know that he was true,
For he at the ascenscion was an apostle still.
May we discern Your presence and seek, like him, Your will.

19. September 21, for Matthew

We praise you, Lord, for Matthew, whose gospel words declare
That, worldly gain forsaking, Your path of love we share.
From all unrighteous mammon, o raise our eyes anew,
That we, whate'er our station may rise and follow You.

20. October 18, Saint Luke

For Luke, beloved physician, all praise whose gospel shows
The healer of the nations, the one who shares our woes.
Your wine and oil, O Savior, upon our spirits pour,
And with true balm of Gilead anoint us evermore.

21. October 23, Saint James of Jerusalem

Praise for the Lord's own brother, James of Jerusalem;
He saw the risen Savior and placed his faith in Him.
Presiding at the council that set the Gentiles free,
He wel-omed them as kindred on equal terms to be.

22. October 28, Saint Simon and Saint Jude

Praise, Lord, for your apostles, Saint Simon and Saint Jude.
One love, one hope, impelled them to tread the way renewed.
May we with zeal as earnest the faith of Christ maintain,
Be bound in love together, and life eternal gain.