

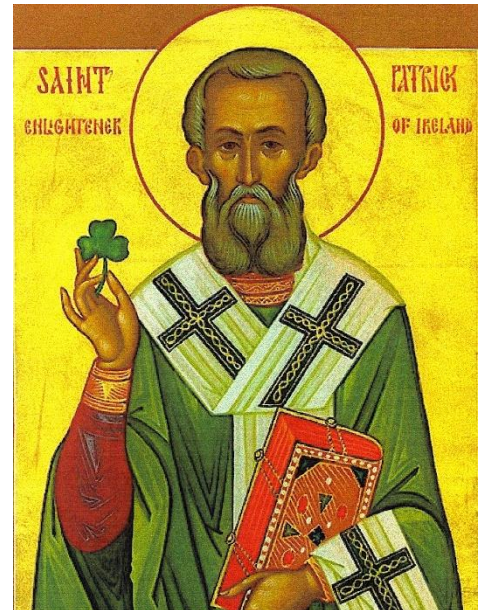
St. Patrick's Day – 17th March 2020

Even though we have no Irish members momentarily in our congregation (it is the Irish National Day today and an important festival) it is worth to remember this saint.

Just few facts are trusted about Patrick. He was born around the year 390, probably in Wales and was the son of a Roman officer in Britain. His real name was Patricius, a common Roman name in the Late Antiquity.

He himself told some steps of his life in a kind of autobiography. Accordingly to it, he was raised in the Christian faith and was a deacon in his home congregation. He was proud of his faith and Roman education.

With 16 years, he was kidnapped by plundering slave hunters and brought to Ireland where he had to herd sheep. He found comfort in his Christian faith and despite the hard time and rough nature he started liking land and people. After some years, he had a vision to flee. Then he probably came to Gaul (today France) and became a priest. In another vision he was called back to Ireland. In the year 432 Pope Coelestin 1st supposedly ordained him as bishop for Ireland. There Patrick established many congregations, schools, and monasteries and he connected the Christianity with the local social structure for example by connecting the local clans and their chiefs with the Bishop's sees.



Patrick was not the first Christian in Ireland but one of the most important. He is supposed to convert thousands of Irish to the Christian faith. And he brought (his) education. In times of theological controversy, it is said that he explained the Trinity to the Irish with the help of a cloverleaf, called shamrock: it is three leaves in one leaf. Therefore, the shamrock became the Irish national symbol – a very Christian one. He died probably on(/around the year) 17 March 461.

We see: also hard times like Patrick's slavery time and escape can be important steps on a long way full of blessing. But we can see and realise this just in the retrospect. We don't know where this pandemic crisis or other personal crises may bring us. But if we listen to God's calls, if we stay steadfast in the true faith, we will reach a good goal. Then we can find new senses of life, new fulfilling duties, and even new homes – at last a new home in heaven. For that Saint Patrick is a good example for us and we thank God for him.

Prayer for St. Patrick's Day

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. We thank you for Your servant Saint Patrick, his deeds to bring the Gospel and true faith to many people, and his example for us. Grant us so to follow the example of Saint Patrick and all Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, especially in these times of trouble and uncertainty that, together with them, we may fulfil Your goal for our lives and 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.


Hymns for St. Patrick's Day

(Note that stanza 1 concludes at the end of the first page, at which point the singer returns to the beginning to sing stanza 2.)

[Text: attributed St. Patrick, translation Cecil F. Alexander 1818-1895; Tune: Irish: "St. Patrick's Breastplate"]

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I Bind unto Myself Today




1 I bind un - to my - self to - day The
 2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, By
 3 I bind un - to my - self to - day The
 4 A - gainst the de - mon snares of sin, The
 △ 5 I bind un - to my - self the name, The




strong name of the Trin - i - ty By
 pow'r of faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, His
 pow'r of God to hold and lead, His
 vice that gives temp - ta - tion force, The
 strong name of the Trin - i - ty By




in - vo - ca - tion of the same, The
 Bap - tism in the Jor - dan Riv - er, His
 eye to watch, His might to stay, His
 nat - ural lusts that war with in, The
 in - vo - ca - tion of the same, The




Repeat after st. 1 ends
 Three in One and One in Three.
 cross of death for my sal - va - tion,
 ear to hear - ken to my need,
 hos - tile foes that mar my course;
 Three in One and One in Three,




(2) His burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, His
 (3) The wis - dom of my God to teach, His
 (4) Or few or man - y, far or nigh, In
 (5) Of whom all na - ture has cre - a - tion, E -



rid - ing up the heav'n - ly way, His
 hand to guide, His shield to ward, The
 ev - 'ry place and in all hours, A -
 ter - nal Fa - ther, Spir - it, Word. Praise



com - ing at the day of doom,
 Word of God to give me speech,
 gainst their fierce hos - til - i - ty,
 to the Lord of my sal - va - tion;



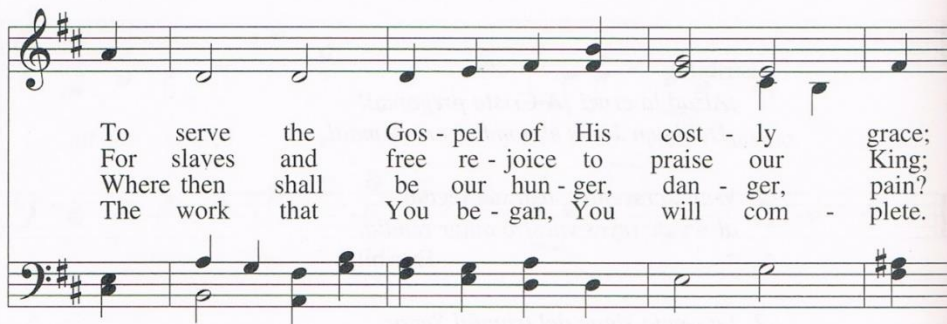
I bind un - to my - self to - day.
 His heav'n - ly host to be my guard.
 I bind to me those ho - ly pow'rs.
 Sal - va - tion is of Christ the Lord!

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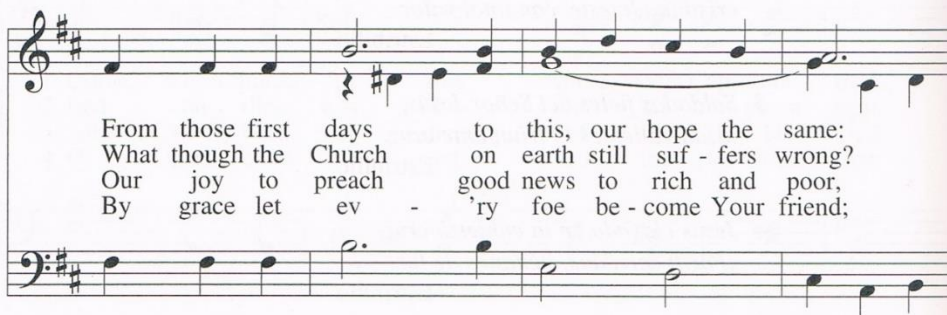
The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place



1 The saints in Christ are one in ev - 'ry place
2 In chains for Christ! His pris'n-ers love to sing,
3 To live is Christ, for us, to die is gain;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ! Heav'n's praise let earth re - peat;



To serve the Gos - pel of His cost - ly grace;
For slaves and free re - joice to praise our King;
Where then shall be our hun - ger, dan - ger, pain?
The work that You be - gan, You will com - plete.



From those first days to this, our hope the same:
What though the Church on earth still suf - fers wrong?
Our joy to preach good news to rich and poor,
By grace let ev - 'ry foe be - come Your friend;



The love of Christ, one Lord, one sav - ing name.
The cross of Christ re - mains our pil - grim song.
Then be with Christ, to live for - ev - er - more.
Your day, O Christ, shall dawn and nev - er end.

Text: Christopher M. Idle, b. 1938, alt.
Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949; setting: Janette Cooper, b. 1937
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Music: © Oxford University Press

WOODLANDS
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Phil. 1:1-21



ALL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BRUSSELS

This compilation comes from **All Lutheran Church of Brussel**, www.alcb.be a congregation of the Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk in België, member of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) represented by The Reverend Johannes Reitze-Landau, pastor@alcb.be the selection of the readings follows the German Protestant Series of the Biblical Readings for the Sundays and Church Feasts based on the "Ancient Church Series", last review in 2018 the Biblical passages are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)