

Welcome

St. Ignatius of Antioch (c. AD 35–107), Bishop and Martyr

Ignatius was bishop of Antioch in Syria and was arrested during a period of persecution of Christians. While being taken to Rome for execution, he wrote seven letters to Christian congregations and individuals. These letters are among our most important witnesses to Christianity immediately following the apostolic age.

His writings are especially appropriate for a Lutheran commemoration because of their emphasis on Christ's incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection.

The Epistle of Ignatius to the Romans

Chapter 4. Allow me to fall a prey to the wild beasts

I write to the Churches, and impress on them all, that I shall willingly die for God, unless you hinder me. I beseech of you not to show an unseasonable good-will towards me. Allow me to become food for the wild beasts, through whose instrumentality it will be granted me to attain to God. **I am the wheat of God, and let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ.** Rather entice the wild beasts, that they may become my tomb, and may leave nothing of my body; so that when I have fallen asleep [in death], I may be no trouble to any one. Then shall I truly be a disciple of Christ, when the world shall not see so much as my body. Entreat Christ for me, that by these instruments I may be found a sacrifice [to God]. I do not, as Peter and Paul, issue commandments unto you. They were apostles; I am but a condemned man: they were free, while I am, even until now, a servant. But when I suffer, I shall be the freed-man of Jesus, and shall rise again emancipated in Him. And now, being a prisoner, I learn not to desire anything worldly or vain.

OCTOBER 17—ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP AND MARTYR (RED)



Introit.
Ant. GOD FOR- || bid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus | Christ | - :
by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I | un- | to | the | world.
Psalm. || Lord, remember | Da- | vid:
and all | his | af- | flic- | tions.
GLO-RY || be to the Father and to the | Son | - :
and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost.
AS IT || was in the beginning, is now, and ever | shall | be:
world with- | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. Repeated.*)

Collect.
Almighty God, behold our weakness and the sorrows of Thy people, and as Thou didst grant the consolation of Thy Holy Spirit to St. Ignatius in his time of affliction for Thy Name's sake, so uphold us in our generation, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

Epistle. Romans 8:35–39 **Gospel. John 12:24–26**

Gradual.
|| These were merciful | men | - :
whose righteousness hath not | been | for- | got- | ten.
|| The people will tell of their | wis- | dom:
and the congregation will | shew | forth | their | praise.
|| Hallelujah. Hallelujah. I am crucified with | Christ | - :
nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. | Hal- | le- | lu- | jah.

The Order of Vespers, p. 29

from ASBH The Psalter

+ “O Lord, open my lips... p.29

+ Psalmody
Psalm 8, *tone 8*... p.97
Psalm 28, *tone 5*... p.131-132
Psalm 34, *tone 8*... p.141-142

Lection
Ecclesiasticus 44:16-20, Romans 8:35-39, St. John 12:24-26
After each lesson
“But, thou, O Lord...” p.30

The General Responsory p.31
“Forever, O Lord...”
Catechism

Office Hymn
“Oh, How Blest Are Ye Whose Toils are Ended” ASBH #102
Sermon

+ The Magnificat p.33-34

+ The Prayers..... p.36
Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy...”)
Lord's Prayer
Salutation p.37
Collect for St Ignatius p.84
Collect for Trinity Twenty p.74
Special Prayers
Collect for Peace p.37

+ Benedicamus & Blessing p.38-39

Ecclesiasticus 44:16-20

¹⁶ Enoch pleased the Lord, and was translated, being an example of repentance to all generations. ¹⁷ Noah was found perfect and righteous; in the time of wrath he was taken in exchange for the world; therefore was he left as a remnant unto the earth, when the flood came. ¹⁸ An everlasting covenant was made with him, that all flesh should perish no more by the flood. ¹⁹ Abraham was a great father of many people: in glory was there none like unto him; ²⁰ Who kept the law of the most High, and was in covenant with him: he established the covenant in his flesh; and when he was proved, he was found faithful.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

St. John 12:24-26

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

Vespers for St. Ignatius of Antioch October 17, 2026



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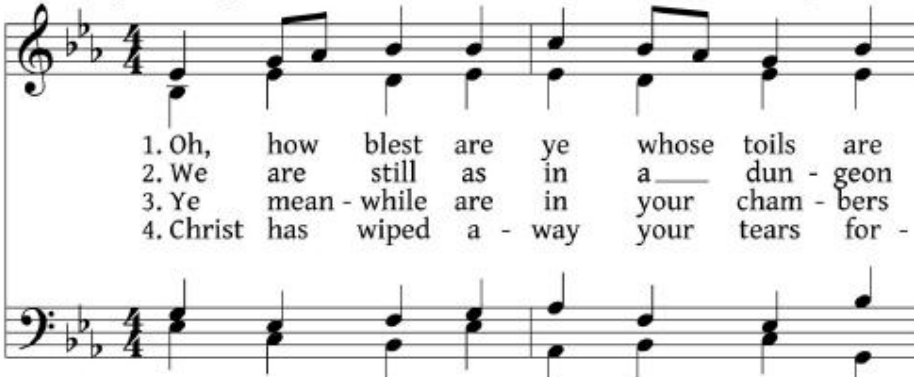
*Pr. Henson and Dcn. Harroun are members of the
Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (Eldona.org)*

Festival of St. Ignatius of Antioch

102. Oh, How Blest Are Ye Whose Toils are Ended

O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen
Simon Dach, 1635
Tr., Henry W. Longfellow, 1845, alt.

O wie selig
J. Georg Stözel's "Choral-Buch"
Stuttgart, 1744



1. Oh, how blest are ye whose toils are
2. We are still as in a — dun - geon
3. Ye mean - while are in your cham - bers
4. Christ has wiped a - way your tears for -



end - ed, Who through death have
liv - ing, Still op - pressed with
sleep - ing, Qui - et, — and set
ev - er; Ye have — that for



un - to God as - cend - ed!
sor - row and mis - giv - ing;
free from all our weep - ing;
which we still en - deav - or;



Ye have a - ris - en From the cares which
Our un - der - tak - ings Are but toils and
No cross or sad - ness There can hin - der
To you are chant - ed Songs that ne'er to



keep us still in pris - on.
trou - bles and heart - break - ings.
your un - trou - bled glad - ness.
mor - tal ears were grant - ed. A - men.

5. Ah, who would, then, not depart with gladness
To inherit heav'n for earthly sadness?
Who here would languish
Longer in bewailing and in anguish?

6. Come, O Christ, and loose the chains that bind us;
Lead us forth and cast this world behind us.
With Thee, th' Anointed,
Finds the soul its joy and rest appointed.