



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

November 3, 2024
All Saints Sunday

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Brown Bag Bible Study continues on November 6. The noontime study sessions will look at the coming Sunday's readings. Bring your lunch and we'll supply the coffee, tea or water. Join us for a deep and lively discussion.

Coming Up

December 21 - Trinity's NEW tradition Christmas musical event will be the first offering in our new "Trinity Musical Arts Series." The premiere event begins at 2 p.m. and will feature a performance of the Academy Brass Quintet. This concert marks the beginning of our new ministry that builds upon Trinity's great musical tradition and aims to establish affordable music outreach to the community. Tickets - which will go on sale by mid-November - are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students or \$25 and \$15 at the door.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Lorraine, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Jeremy, Rachel, Nash, Jeff

Introduction to the day

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Hymns

INSHALLAH # 40 God welcomes all
ELW 631 Love divine, all love excelling
ELW 422 For all the saints
ACS 1030 Death be never last

Prayer of the day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

First reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,



and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

the world and those who dwell therein.

² **For the Lord has founded it up-^l on the seas**

and established it up-^l on the rivers.

³ Who may ascend the mountain^l of the Lord,

and who may stand in God's^l holy place?

**⁴ Those of innocent hands and
puri- | ty of heart,
who do not swear on God's
being, nor do they pledge by | what is
false.**

⁵ They shall receive blessing | from
the Lord
and righteousness from the God
of | their salvation.

**⁶ Such is the generation of those
who seek | you, O Lord,
of those who seek your face,
O | God of Jacob.**

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be
lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

**⁸ Who is this | King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, might- | y in battle!**

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be
lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

**¹⁰ Who is this | King of glory?
Truly, the Lord of hosts is
the | King of glory.**

Second reading: Revelation 21:1-6a

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth
had passed away, and the sea was no
more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new
Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven
from God, prepared as a bride adorned
for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud
voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among
mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their
eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be
no more,
for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the
throne said, "See, I am making all things
new." Also he said, "Write this, for these
words are trustworthy and true." ^{6a} Then
he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha
and the Omega, the beginning and the
end."

Gospel: John 11:32-44

³² When Mary came where Jesus was
and saw him, she knelt at his feet and
said to him, "Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died." ³³

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the
Jews who came with her also weeping,
he was greatly disturbed in spirit and
deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have
you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord,
come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to
weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he
loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said,
"Could not he who opened the eyes of
the blind man have kept this man from
dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly
disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a
cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹
Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
Martha, the sister of the dead man, said



to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Sermon

Hope wins, life wins

God's grace and peace be with you this day and always ...

A group called The Work of the People composes devotional videos for different parts of the church year.

A few years ago, there was an entry in the series called To Stand Again, which presented the story of Maggie Barankitse.

Barankitse is a humanitarian who operates shelters in three cities in the African country of Burundi.

In 1993, the Burundi civil war was raging ... she witnessed an untold number of people killed ... she saw her own family destroyed.

But in the midst of all this sorrow and destruction, Barankitse began offering food and shelter to 25 children. They came under her protection.

The following year, an old school was converted into a shelter ... the Maison Shalom.

Nine years later, more than 20,000 children had been helped ... either directly or indirectly ... by her actions and the creation of these shelters.

In the interview ... as she is talking about the carnage and brutality she witnessed ... Barankitse says ... "It is always life that wins, never death ... love always wins."

These words sum up Lazarus' story this morning.

"Life always wins ... love always wins."

In this morning's story from John's gospel love is present ... but it certainly doesn't seem to be winning.

Jesus has been absent from Martha's, Mary's and Lazarus' life as he

and the disciples have been ministering across the region.

Just before this morning's passage, the sisters send word to Jesus that his dear friend Lazarus is sick ... very sick. They call for Jesus to save their brother.

It takes about a day for the message to reach Jesus. He hears about how gravely ill his friend is ... but rather than leave immediately ... Jesus decides to stay where he is for two more days before making the trip back to Judea and to Lazarus.

The disciples likely believe that Jesus' delays because he is hesitant to go back to a place that recently threatened to stone him. The disciples fully expect that they would be killed in Bethany.

Jesus knows what the future really holds.

By the time he does arrive, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

His body had been prepared, anointed, wrapped in funeral linen and placed in a small cave will serve as his tomb ... a large rock has been rolled over the entrance to keep animals out and to contain the stench of death.

Under Jewish belief, Lazarus' soul is only present in the body for three days ... then it leaves. That meant the Lazarus was officially physically and spiritually dead.

He was gone ... nothing that could be done to resuscitate him. ... his soul had departed.

By the time Jesus arrives, Mary and Martha had no reason to hope for their brother's return to them. His life here ...

on earth ... had come to its conclusion. The stench from the darkness of the tomb told them that much.

To Mary and Martha and the people who had gathered, Jesus was too late. ... a day earlier and he could have saved Lazarus. ... just a few hours earlier would have made a difference. They could have more time with their brother.

Like many of us in such situations of pain and loss, the sisters desperately want their brother back in their lives. Mary and Martha are angry ... as we would be in their place. They wonder why their prayers weren't answered ... why was Jesus absent in their anxiety and worry ... where was Jesus when they really needed him?

Jesus weeps with the sisters ... his spirit disturbed by what he witnesses and by what he heard from the crowd. Jesus offers a prayer.

And then he calls to Lazarus ... "Lazarus, come out" ... and a moment later ... Lazarus exits the tomb ... life suddenly appears from a place reeking of death ... Still bound with linen and dragging the cloth behind him as he stumbles through the opening of the cave.

And then ... Jesus tells the people to unbind ... to free Lazarus from the cloth strips the restrict him.

If we were in the crowd ... would we answer Jesus' call to unbind Lazarus. Would we be willing to help peel off the strips of caked in decay and sorrow? Would we enter the messy darkness of grief?

Removing these cloth strips frees Lazarus from the bindings of death and sorrow ... and allow him to fully enter life... a new life.

When Jesus tells the people to unbind Lazarus, he makes them participants in this resurrection ... in the call to new life.

A few moments earlier, the crowd stood with Martha and Mary ... supporting them in their pain and sorrow. They too were bound to that sorrow like the cloth that wrapped Lazarus. Now, they join in the possibilities that come with Lazarus' exit from the tomb.

What hope and joy the sisters and the rest of the gathering must have felt at the moment.

If you have wept over a loss and felt the pain of losing someone, then it's easy to feel empathy with the sisters and the crowd that mourns with them. We have shared the experience and that should give us empathy toward another's sorrow.

Grief ... as this story shows ... is a communal affair.

That is one of the takeaways from this morning's story. The crowd wept with the sisters and witnessed Jesus weeping with them, as well ... his love for Lazarus, for the sisters and for the people suffering was so great that Jesus cries.

Jesus stood on the outskirts of Bethany ... surrounded by grief and pain ... not as an observer, but as a participant ... as a loving presence ... in that moment of profound sorrow.

That is the good news of John's gospel ... that Jesus sees and participates in our grief. God's love remains present.

Jesus ... who came among the people to experience their lives ... experiences the loss that shapes the moment for Martha, Mary and the crowd ... the loss that clothes that moment in death ... and then reveals God's promise that comes through faith.

Jesus reminds those gathered around the tomb that he remains the one God sent to give life that overcomes death.

Jesus reminds Martha:

"Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" (v. 40)

Martha believes and witnesses the life-giving promise being kept.

Jesus invites the crowd to bear witness to the divine love that enters into that moment ... the love that raises Lazarus ... the love that wipes away the tears ... the love that brings new life and that reveals God to the world.

For those who have suffered a loss ... the departure of a loved one ... pain and the sense of loss can bind our lives like the strips of funeral cloth bound Lazarus ... holding us back in the darkness of sorrow.

Jesus' calls to us out of love ... to leave such darkness ... and for those around us to help remove those bindings. Jesus calls us to share in a person's or a community's sorrow ... to help bear the pain ... the burden being borne by their heart.

John's gospel doesn't tell us much about what happens to Lazarus after he leaves the tomb with the second chance at life. Lazarus will still die at some point ... physically die ... but spiritually he will remain alive ... through those who remain.

We do know that Lazarus becomes a sign of hope for Martha, Mary, and the gathered community of witnesses.

Hope ... through Jesus' suffering ... death ... resurrection ... and ascension ... is realized in our lives. Death does not have the final word ... Jesus through the raising of Lazarus and later from his own tomb ... reveals God's presence to the world.

Love does have the final word.

Jesus loves Mary, Martha and the gathering. He joins them in their suffering ... weeping with them as the rest of the gathering watches ... even though he knows that new life is around the corner. He allows them to mourn the end of Lazarus' old life ... and to feel joy in his new life.

For the end of this story isn't the end of Lazarus, but a beginning for him. The resurrection is not a final act ... it is a transformational one. The promise of the gospel transforms lives.

Lazarus' story is one of hope and opportunity.

On All Saints Sunday, we remember those people whose love touched our lives ... shaping who we are and how we relate to the world. We remember those moments when love was made known through them.

It is also a time to remember that the weight of grief we feel can be borne by the community.

And it is a time that God calls us ... as a family of faith ... to step into another's darkness and unbinding them to move forward through the love we have received through the cross.

Because it is through such love where hope is made known ... and where new life emerges from the dark tomb of despair and sorrow ... raised and unbound ... into the light of the world.

... and in that moment, life wins.

AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever.

AMEN

Blessing

The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever..

AMEN

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

_____ (\$ _____,00) per month

Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence	\$ _____	per month
Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA)	\$ _____	per month
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	\$ _____	per month
ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Total Monthly Giving:	\$ _____	per month

Contributor's name _____ Envelope # _____

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Number _____ Type of Account _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.