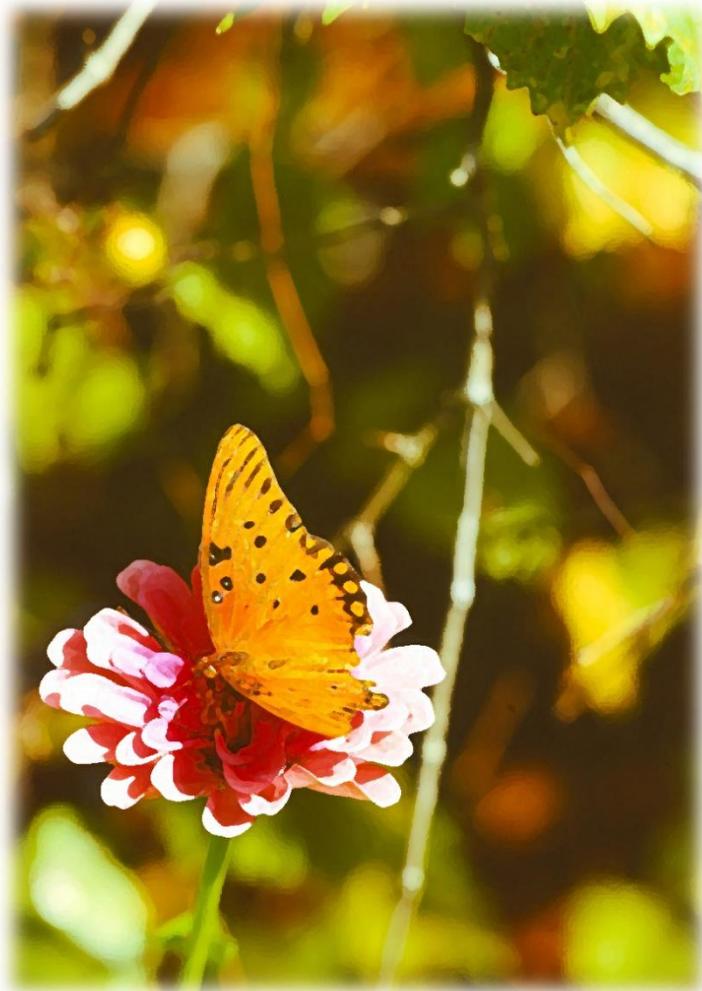


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

Then
Jesus
said,
“Did
I not
tell
you



that if you believed,
you would see the
glory of God?”

John 11:40

All Saints Sunday

November 7, 2021



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@wctatel.net)

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web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

All Saints Sunday

November 7, 2021

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

We joyfully welcome all who have gathered here this day to celebrate God in our lives. This morning we lift-up the vision of God's Kingdom – both here on earth and the one promised to come. We remember those who have been part of the fellowship of believers on earth and now make up the heavenly host.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

Out of the depths of despair, I cry to you, O God;

Praying that you would hear my anguished calls for help.

I could not stand if you counted my sins against me;

For I would be utterly helpless and my hope would be gone.

But out of your mercy and grace, you restore my hope.

We worship and adore you, O God, we stand in awe of your great mercy.

1

O how I longed to hear the promise of your forgiveness

With a yearning as great as a watcher in the night waits for the dawn.

O that all people would put their trust in you, O God, And experience your steadfast love and forgiveness.

We worship and adore you, O God, we stand in awe of your great mercy.

Merciful God, we know that there are times when our attitudes and behavior, and our words and deeds can so distance us from you, that our lives become arid and life-less, lacking meaning and hope. But you breathe new hope into our lives in Jesus and through the gift of your Spirit. The areas we thought were dead spring into life and circumstances we believed were beyond redemption suddenly take on a new light. Wounded hearts are healed of their resentment and desire for revenge. Our vision expands to discern the signs of mercy and love which are present, when we set our minds on your holiness and on the depth of your love for us. Love revealed so clearly in Jesus' persistence in showing how the power of evil and even death can be overcome when lives are linked with yours through him. We worship and adore you, O God, with hearts filled with gratitude and praise.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The Apostle Paul writes that "to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." We confess, O God, that when we, as your people in this place, set our minds on the things of the flesh as opposed to the Spirit, our lives become all too easily influenced by and attracted to the powers of the world.

2

Forgive us when our vision is limited by the power of the ‘bottom line’- whether we can afford to make plans for the future or not.

Remind us that all things are possible when our minds are set on the Spirit.

Forgive us if we remain captive to patterns and programs of the past.

Remind us that newness and future possibilities can become reality when our minds are set on the Spirit.

Forgive us when daily news reports and personal experiences fill us with fear and depression, hopelessness and despair.

Remind us that when minds are set on the Spirit, you give us the ability to cope because your Spirit, O God, brings life into the most deadening situations.

Forgive us when our words and actions conceal the truth of the gospel.

Remind us that our integrity is alive and well when our minds are set on the Spirit.

A time of silence

Gracious life-giving God, set our minds, our hearts, and our lives anew on the Holy Spirit so that we are filled with your life and love, mercy and peace. May all our relationships be so bound together with these qualities that we are visible reminders that your Spirit, O God dwells in us all.

This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

EXPERIENCING GOD’S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Our hope is in God whose steadfast love surrounds us and in whom “is great power to redeem”. (Psalm 130: 7) This power is revealed in Jesus Christ who promises us life where there is death, and forgiveness where there is sin.

The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

“For All the Saints”

vss. 1-4 # 174

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
you, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
and win with them the victor’s crown of gold.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

WE BAPTIZE
Juniper Ellouise Fritz

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have her baptized into Christ?

Parents/Sponsors: We do.

Parents, as you bring her to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support *Juniper Ellouise* and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

***BAPTISMAL (APOSTLES') CREED**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

Blessed be God now and forever.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

Blessed be God now and forever.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God now and forever.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Juniper Ellouise, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Juniper Ellouise* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Juniper Ellouise, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

(The pastor, after dipping his hand in the baptismal waters, makes the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.)

***CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME**

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

(A candle is lit from the Christ Candle and given to the parents as a symbol of Jesus Christ - the Light of the World, and as a reminder that they are responsible for sharing Jesus Christ with their child.)

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

⁶On 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.

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

⁸he 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.

⁹It 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 21:1-6a

Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.

¹I 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. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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,

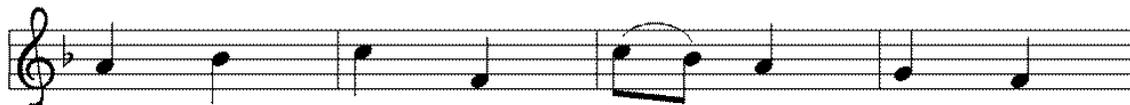
and God himself will be with them;
⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

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

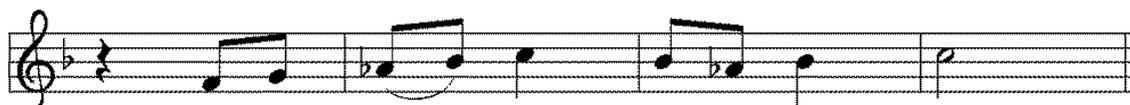
⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ^{6a}Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

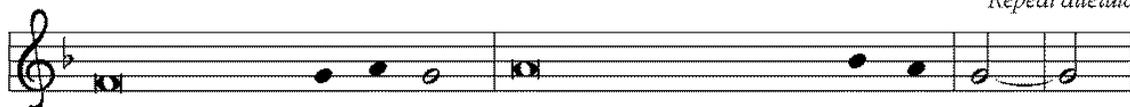


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

John 11:32-44

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³²When 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.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The 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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

***SONG OF THE DAY** “My Lord, What a Morning” ELW # 438

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

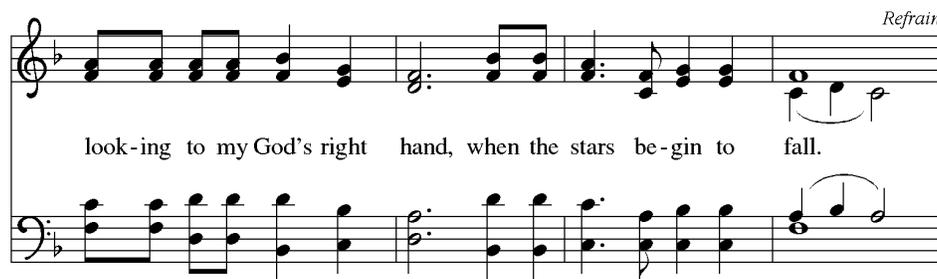


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

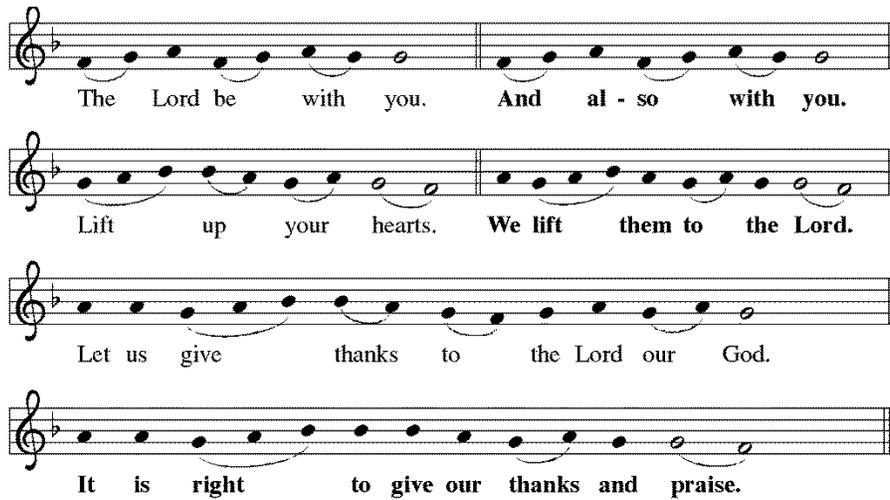
Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

✠ **MEAL** ✠

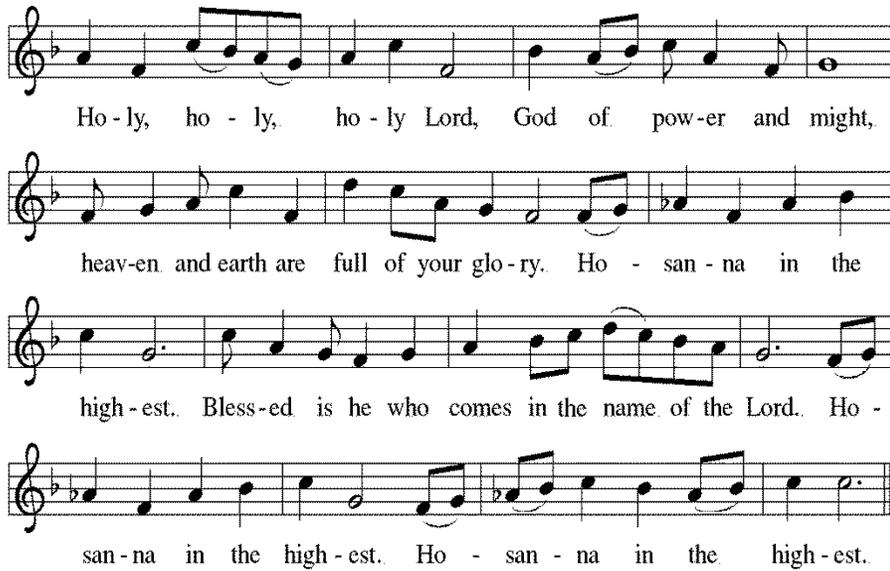
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

DISTRIBUTION

***BLESSING**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

TABLE PRAYER

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



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Tears Are Holy

“Jesus wept” (John 11:35). It’s the shortest verse in the Bible (in many non-NRSV versions), popular among Sunday school children trying to pad their stats in Bible memorization games. Only two words, three short syllables: “Jesus wept.” It is also a profound theological statement. Death hurts. Even for Jesus. Even with prophecies and promises to wipe away every tear.

Although we may put it out of mind at times, we have always been dust. We have always known that to dust we shall return. Before rushing to the reassurance of eternal life with God, we honor the sacred finitude of life by honestly naming and feeling the grief of death.

Even as he embodied resurrection power, Jesus felt the sting of death. When he heard that his friend Lazarus had died, he wept. He didn’t immediately bring him back, and he didn’t explain it away. He wept. This is Jesus at his most human *and* his most divine. Life is holy, and its loss is painful. Your tears, like Jesus’ tears, are holy. You are not alone.

The vision of Revelation promises a time when God will wipe away every tear, when death and mourning and crying and pain will be no more. But as Jesus himself experienced, we must first contend with the heartbreak of death. On All Saints Day we remember the saints who have gone before. We celebrate their lives and the promise of a future with God. And we honor them with our tears and mourning, and our honest and complicated feelings for them.

Stories promise endings, but too often death brings relationships to a stop without the closure of an ending. The promise of resurrection and the rituals of All Saints Day remind us that our stories continue to unfold in mysterious ways—even after death. God shows up in the messiness of loss and mourning, and God’s love carries us through the loneliness and fear. Thanks be to God.