

NOVEMBER 4, 2018
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



God conquers death with the promise of new life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus
Monday	Isaiah 25:6-9	The Lord has delivered us
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6a	A new heaven and earth
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-38	Resurrection of the dead
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15:50-57	Death has lost its sting
Friday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 118:22-23	Entrance into the temple
Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[God] 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. **Revelation 21:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, we thank you that you have conquered death through Christ Jesus our Lord and promised that death and sadness will be no more. Amen. (Revelation 21:4)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you feed the living and promise to wipe away every tear. Praise and thanks be to you forever. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord, the Alpha and the Omega, wipe every tear from your eye and turn your mourning into dancing. (Revelation 21:4, 6a)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Thine the Amen



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What makes you sad?
- Talk about ways a death has had an impact on you.
- God's design is for joy and gladness, not sadness. How does God's promise to overcome death and sadness make a difference for you each day?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 11:32-44.

The Gospel of John states clearly that the Word (God) became flesh (John 1:14). It is easy to imagine the divinity of God in Jesus without the humanity. However, that would be to miss that God in Christ comes in real human flesh to save what God has created. This passage is filled with raw emotion and human senses. Jesus wept at the sight of his friends grieving (v.35). He was "greatly disturbed" (v.33). Jesus loved Lazarus (v. 36). There are real consequences to death. There is a stench from Lazarus' body (v. 39). Jesus shouts with a loud voice to Lazarus and commands that he come out (v. 43). Our God comes to a real world with real emotion and physical actions. Our God is not a distant spirit removed from real life. Reflect on what it says about God that Jesus grieved with Mary and Martha. What does it mean that God is not satisfied with death but gives new life (Revelation 21:1-6a)?

Pray: Everlasting God, we thank you that you have conquered death through Christ Jesus our Lord and promised that death and sadness will be no more. Amen.

SERVICE

Loss and grief are real experiences that we generally try to avoid. However, death is very real and not God's will. In Isaiah 25:7 God promises to swallow up death forever. Life, not death, gets the last word. Therefore, we can face loss and death with faith and courage. Think of someone who is grieving. Visit, call, text, or write a card to them and express your care and sorrow and God's promise to conquer death and sadness (Revelation 21:4).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saint's Day is the day after All Hallows' Eve (Halloween). It is when we remember all saints and martyrs throughout Christian history. One tradition on this day is to light a candle for those who have passed away. Take time to do this. You could also place a picture of this person next to the candle. Light the candle and read Isaiah 25:6-9 and Revelation 21:1-6a.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org