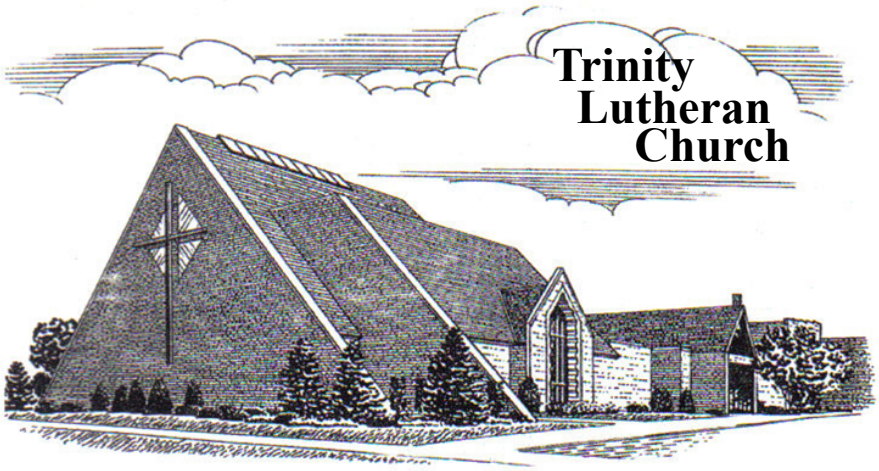
All Saints' Day



Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 2026

Weekly Outline

Invocation
L: In the way of your testimonies I delight.

C: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

L: Let us pray:

O Lord, take away from me all coldness, all wanderings of the thoughts, and fix my soul upon thee and thy love, O merciful Lord and Saviour, in this hour of prayer.

C: Amen.

Scripture

Oct. 26: Revelation 7:9-17

Oct. 28: 1 John 3:1-3

Oct. 30: Matthew 5:1-12

Devotion

Closing Prayer
L: Ever blessed Trinity, to thy mercy I commit this day, my body and soul, together with all my ways and undertakings. I beseech thee to be gracious unto me; enlarge my heart and open my lips, that I may praise and magnify thy name which alone is holy. And as thou hast made me for the praise of thy holy name, grant that I may yield my life a sacrifice to thy honor in humble love and fear.
C: Amen.

Monday

A "catechism" is an instruction manual for the faith that uses a question/answer format. This is the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism: "What is your only comfort in life and death?" Answer: "That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ." As we celebrate All Saints' Day this Sunday, that answer focuses us on the hope through which we confront death. That we do not belong to ourselves, but to Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose for you and me.

All Saints' Day is a day of remembrance, mourning, and celebration for those who have gone ahead of us into glory. It is a day of remembrance because they are no longer with us. It is a day of mourning because we have been separated from them for a time. But it is a day of celebration because Christ won the victory over death for them. Revelation 7 contains a vision of heaven, where an angel shows John the souls of those who have died in the faith. This is what he sees, "Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' " These are the saved, those who whose faith has been turned to sight. They now live beyond all trouble, all pain, all evil, because they worship in the presence of the Lamb, who died and rose for their salvation.

Not only do we remember, mourn, and celebrate those who have died in the faith, but we also encourage ourselves to persevere in faith until we join them. There is no obstacle so great that it can prevent our salvation. There is no pain so severe that it will not pass away. There is no sin so wretched that Christ will not forgive it. All Saints' Day is a reminder that glory awaits us if only we would entrust ourselves to Christ and wash our robes in his blood, just as those who have gone before us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday

Everyone has questions about heaven, most of which cannot be answered. Will there be pets in heaven? We don't know. What will heaven be like? We don't know. How old will people look? We don't know. People even asked the apostle John questions like this, and he answered, "We don't know."

But there is one thing we do know, that we will be like Christ. John writes, "Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed (in other words, we don't yet know what we will be). We know that when Christ appears, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is." That doesn't mean that we will look like Christ, but that we will be like Christ. When God first created Man, he created him in his image. But that image was lost in the Fall. You and I are no longer what God intended for us to be. He intended us to be righteous. We are sinners. He intended us to be holy. We are unclean. He intended us to be like him. But we are like the devil. But Christ? He is the perfect image of the Father, the exact representation of His nature. To be like Christ is to have our nature restored. It is to be remade fully and finally into the image of God. It is to be righteous, as he is righteous. Holy, as he is holy. Perfect, as he is perfect. There are many things we do not know about heaven, but we know that we will be remade into the image of Christ, which is what God intended for us from the beginning.

John concludes, "Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as Christ is pure." God does not wait until we die to remake us in the image of his Son. The return of Christ is the completion of the process. But our transformation begins today, as we begin to purify ourselves, dying to sin and rising to new life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday

All Saints' Day presents us with the hope of eternity. And while that hope is foundational for the Christian life, we still have to live in an evil world today. But Jesus reminds us that while we haven't entered eternity quite yet, God's kingdom belongs to us today.

Matthew 5:1-12 has traditionally been called the "Beatitudes," because of the Latin, "Beatus," which means, "Blessed". In these verses, Christ announces that the most unlikely of people are blessed, the poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure, the peacemakers, and the persecuted. And while each group receives a unique blessing that matches its quality (for example, those who hunger for righteousness are filled, and those who mourn are comforted), each blessing is a particular aspect of one great blessing, the kingdom of God. That is why the first group (the poor in spirit) and the last group (the persecuted) receive the same blessing. Everyone in between does as well, but the blessing of the kingdom of heaven is so rich that it can be applied to the specific situation of each group. The comfort of this passage is that the kingdom of heaven is not a future reality. Jesus does not say, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs will be the kingdom of heaven," but, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Those who belong to Christ belong to the kingdom of heaven today.

Our inclusion in the kingdom today strengthens as we wait for it to appear. We are not in a situation where we hope that someday we will be found in the kingdom if only we work enough, suffer enough, or pray enough. Rather, we work, suffer, and pray in the certainty that we already belong to the kingdom because of Christ. It is from that certainty that we live. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Evening Prayer

You may pray one or more of the following after dinner or before bed:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray you that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take; and this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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Visit, O Lord, our home, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

A Parent's Blessing

You may place your hand on the head of your child before kissing them goodnight and say:

My loved one, rest securely,
for God this night will surely
from peril guard your head.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
and bid his hosts attend you
and through the night watch o'er your bed. Amen.

Memory Verse

