



FIVE WERE WISE...
FIVE WERE FOOLISH.

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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Saints Triumphant

“Saints Above and Saints Below”

November 15, 2020

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the “Run, Hide, Fight” response in an emergency.

Covid-19 Precautions / Reminders:

1. Every other pew will be taped off to create social distance.
2. Weather permitting, the windows will be open to create as much airflow as possible.
3. The hymnals have been removed from the pews. The hymns will be sung out of the bulletin or off the projector screens.
4. Worshippers are asked to pick up their own bulletin and take it home with them.
5. Offerings will be placed in the plate on the podium before or after the service.
6. The church council asks everyone to wear a mask, if possible. Masks are available in the entryway.
7. The pastor won't shake hands after the service.
8. Something to eat and drink will be offered after the service today in the fellowship hall, which has been cleared of tables and chairs to make social distancing possible.

Before Service Prayer: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. Into Your hands I commend 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. *(Luther's Morning Prayer)*

AS WE GATHER

There are different types of hope. The hope some people have is no more than wishful thinking. Others rely on their own plans and intellect to provide a measure of hope during times of difficulty. But for those of us who have been blessed with the gift of faith in our Lord Jesus, hope is sure. For His sake, our heavenly Father has forgiven all our sins and now calls us His own children, brothers and sisters of our Lord. We shall join those who have gone before us to sing God's eternal praises, even as we join “angels and archangels and all the company of heaven” in the Sanctus before receiving His body and blood.

HYMN "For All the Saints" (CW 551)

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who their 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
And 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 grand design. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And when the fight 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 to ocean's farthest coast
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

WELCOME

Pastor: Today we are celebrating Saints Triumphant, on which we give thanks "for all the saints who from their labors rest," those who have gone before us in faith. By definition, a saint is anyone looked on as holy by God. The only difference among the saints is that some are "above," already in heaven, and some are saints "below," still here on earth. For the saints below, our hope is to join the saints above. That hope is summarized in today's short Epistle.

EPISTLE 1 John 3:1–3 (*We are already God's children.*)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A RITE OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation.

People He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

Pastor: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into His death.

People: We were therefore buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.

Pastor: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

People: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with You in joy and blessedness.

People: We give You heartfelt thanks for the grace You have bestowed upon Your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors.

(Remembering those who have died in the Lord over the past year.)

Pastor: For bestowing on them and receiving them into Your heavenly kingdom as sheep of Your own fold, lambs of Your own flock, sinners of Your own redeeming,

People: we give You thanks and praise, knowing, O Lord, that Your light perpetually shines upon them. Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE (to the tune of CW 214)

Since we are here surrounded by saints whose race is run,

Let us in faith press forward until the prize is won.

Like saints who've gone before us, the promised land we see

Where Christ, who triumphed for us, awaits in victory.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Confident of salvation, let us confess our sins to our loving, heavenly Father.

People: We confess that we have not lived as Your children, Father in heaven. In our thinking, speaking, and acting, we have not demonstrated to the people around us the kind of love You have shown us. Forgive us for these our sins. Open our eyes of faith that we may anticipate seeing You in the eternity that awaits us. Then move us toward purity of living that will give You the glory each day until You return.

Pastor: Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we are God's children now because of the hope God has poured into us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord! (to the tune of CW 372)

**The Church on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace,
Then we, like saints before us, may see You face to face.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For heaven-sent peace and the hope of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: For global peace and the Church's growth in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who here return thanks to God for the hope within them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Christ, have mercy, now and forever. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical Body of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

People: Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Revelation 7:9–17 (*Saints around God's throne know eternal salvation after having endured persecution.*)

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve Him day and night in His temple;
and He who sits on the throne
will shelter them with His presence.

¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

'He will lead them to springs of living water.'
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1–13 (*The parable of the ten virgins.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "There Is a Blessed Home" (CWS 729)

**There is a blessed home beyond this land of woe,
Where trials never come, nor tears of sorrow flow;
Where faith is fully lost in sight, and patient hope is crowned,
And everlasting light its glory casts around.**

**There is a land of peace, good angels know it well;
Glad songs that never cease within its portals swell.
Around the glorious throne of God the countless saints adore
Christ, with the Father one, and Spirit evermore.**

O joy all joys beyond, to see the Lamb who died,
And count each sacred wound in hands and feet and side;
To give to Him eternal praise for ev'ry triumph won,
And sing through endless days the great things He has done!

Look up, you saints of God, nor fear to tread below
The path your Savior trod of daily toil and woe:
Wait only for a little while in uncomplaining love.
His own most gracious smile will welcome you above.

SERMON

CREED (The Third Article of the Apostle's Creed with Luther's Meaning.)

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

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. Amen.

OFFERING (*Offerings can be place in the plate on the table in the entryway either before or after the service.*)

OFFERTORY (*Tone Chime Choir: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For ourselves and all who with hope are realizing new beginnings—with new schools to attend, new loves to celebrate, new job opportunities to explore, and new positions in government to assume—that our Lord Jesus would give them joy in their endeavors, let us pray to the Lord.

HYMN "Lord of All Hopefulness" (vs. 1)

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

Pastor: For ourselves and all those who are eagerly returning to their daily circumstances— raising crops and tending herds, transporting goods and offering services, designing products and expanding understanding, defending borders and securing justice, teaching and learning—that the Holy Spirit would give them strength and guidance to serve their neighbors in love and to do God’s will, let us pray to the Lord.

HYMN “Lord of All Hopefulness” (vs. 2)

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

Pastor: For ourselves and all who in kindness care for one another—offering hospitality to the homeless, healing to the sick, counsel to the sorrowful, and support for the forgotten— that God would increase their love to provide home, health, consolation, and community; and for those near and dear to us who call to Him in hopeful prayer, that our gracious Lord would meet their needs of body, soul, and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

HYMN “Lord of All Hopefulness” (vs. 3)

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

Pastor: For ourselves and all who find they need gentle relief—vacations from demanding agendas and constructive criticism, retirement from career goals and job expectations, and personal time to listen to God’s gracious Word and to be aware of His constant presence—that our heavenly Father would grant them peace and renew their hope until faith gives way to sight, let us pray to the Lord.

HYMN “Lord of All Hopefulness” (vs. 4)

**Lord, of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION (*Romans 15:13 & Numbers 6:24,25*)

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN "There Is a Higher Throne" (CWS 727)

**There is a higher throne than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace; salvation comes.**

Refrain

**Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings.
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high
forevermore.**

**And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne.
We'll honor Him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd-King; we'll reign with Him.**

Refrain

**Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings.
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high
forevermore.**

Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Sarvady

Today—Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Tuesday—Sunday School teachers meeting at 7:00 PM

Wednesday—WLCFS Seminar at 6:30 PM

Preschool Staff Meeting at 7:30 PM

Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Next Sunday—Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the lower level.

The Branch Connection will hold their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8th, at 6:00 PM. The Ladies will be making cards as part of their service project for Christmas. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend. More details will be included in the December newsletter. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the lower level.

The following note came from Christian Family Resources this past week:

"In light of the increase in Covid cases in Wisconsin, Karen Fischer would like to present virtually for your church next week. Karen and her husband provide complete care for her 88 year old mother and because of this she would like to limit her travel and exposure during this time. Karen would like to present via our Zoom Webinar platform."

In light of this request, the seminar will still take place, but the presenter will present via Zoom on the big screens in the chapel.

This past week the Little Sprouts toddler program added another student. The class now has four boys and one girl for a total of five students. The class has a limit of eight.

Two weeks ago, Tree of Life added another four-year-old student (the lone member child attending our preschool) bringing the enrollment of the four-year-old class up to ten.

New Life's Thanksgiving Eve service will take place on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 PM. The service is entitled "Thank and Praise, Serve and Obey Him."

After the Thanksgiving service, New Life will host a traditional Stone Soup Supper. If you'd like to bring an ingredient for the supper, you can sign up on the sign-up sheet in the lower level. A craft will be provided for the kids and the story of "Stone Soup" will be read / presented.