



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 23 **November 1, 2026**
All Saints Sunday

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

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Saviour. Amen

Promises are amazing in that they don't just describe things; they have the capacity actually to create the reality they name.

When our daughter Sarah was a child, I would promise to play one of her favourite board games after supper. Incredibly, as it may seem, following supper there came a call from the chesterfield in the family room that it would be occupied in a horizontal position. Dad needed a nap. Yet, there was Sarah reminding me of the power of a promise no matter how tired I was, her soft, little voice; maybe it was more like, “I’m letting you off the hook” voice came: “But Daddy.....you promised.” It didn’t take long for her to ensure we were going to play the game. She would have the game set up on the dining room table and ready to take me on! By the way, it is still one of her favourite games as we played it on one of her recent visits.

This All Saints Sunday it is our custom to pause to remember those who have died in the last year. This day is not meant to bring back moments of grief and sadness but to move to

thanksgiving for their life and celebrate the promise God has made to each of them – and kept – the promise of eternal life. For Nancy, Bobby, Delores, Russel, Heinz, Herb, David and Susan, their place is now among the saints; gathered in the nearer presence of God.

Through their baptism God had chosen them, set them apart, named and claimed them to be God's own children forever. Through our baptism we are too – God's own children forever.

We are God's beloved child. No matter where we have been or where we may go, God will be with us. God will be with you in your going out and in your coming in, in your lying down and in your rising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears.

And in your tears.

Our tears today are for the ones we lost this year. But our tears may come from many other places, not only death. These tears deserve our notice and they too demand our comfort. They come when we depart for a new job or a new home and leave beloved friends, neighbours and colleagues behind. They come as we slowly lose a loved one to Alzheimer's. They come in loss of dignity. They come from struggles with illness both of our bodies and our minds. They come from the exhaustion of caring for an aging parent. They come from disappointments at home, or work, or school. They come from the Corona Virus with our deferred visits from our parents, our daughters and sons our sisters and brothers and our dashed hopes of vacations and wintering in the sunny south.

God sees us; God knows the grief that weighs down our hearts; the depression that oppresses us; the challenges we are facing and the uphill struggles we contemplate. God sees you, honours you, and blesses you. And if you notice from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus blesses all kinds of people, but especially the kinds of people who aren't normally blessed. It is folks that the world typically gives little regard to; yet Jesus calls them blessed. You know, the poor in spirit; you who mourn; you the meek; you who hunger and thirst for righteousness; you the merciful; the pure in heart; the peacemakers; the persecuted. And the good news is: God not only sees, honors and blesses you but accompanies you on the road we call life.

Please know that when you struggle, and believe me I have had my own struggles, you are not being faithless. We can often feel that in our struggles or doubts or fears; we are letting God down. It's just not true. Martin Luther during the days of the Reformation discerned that where there is faith there is also always struggle. You see, struggle, doubt, feeling overwhelmed, wondering if God is out there – these are not signs of failure or lack of faith, but are actually a testament to profound faith as we wrestle with such deep questions and thereby take God seriously. And when we feel at our most low, and wonder if we have lost our faith, God names us among the most faithful and adds one more to The Beatitudes: Blessed are those who struggle.

My Friends in Christ! To be a saint is to recognize that God has called us by name to be God's child forever and promised to do great things through us for the sake of all the other saints God loves so much. The same God that sees our struggles, knows our grief and loves us deeply. This is why we can face the losses in our lives, especially our loved ones we remember on this day

because we know God has loved them and still loves each one of them and brought them over from this life to a new and abundant life with God and all the saints triumphant. This was God's promise to them and a promise God has made to us.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Dismissal

Go out in Joy. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....Casey Wierzbicki, Joanna Spencer, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Pastor Bruce will be on vacation from November 2 and returning on November 16. In the case of a pastoral emergency please call Pastor Jim Goos 613-401-8750.

The Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held Sunday, November 22nd after the morning service. Please plan to attend.

Canada Lutheran Magazine – It's time to renew your subscription for 2027. Please let the church office know if you would like to renew. If you do not receive this magazine and would like to sign up, please contact the church office by November 8th. The new rate is \$23.33 (includes tax -providing we have at least five subscribers. We currently need one more).

Eternity for Today Devotional Booklets – It's time to re-order the devotional booklets for 2027. If you are interested in receiving this booklet, please let Pastor Bruce know by November 15th. If you already receive this booklet and want to continue, no further action is required. The congregation budget covers the cost of these booklets – however, donations via the offering envelope are welcome.