



The Time In Between – Is the Time to Live as Saints

Grace Lutheran Church
Yorba Linda, California

November 5, 2023

THE TIME

IN BETWEEN

In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Jesus Christ came to our world to win our salvation; and the second time when He will come to make all things new. We live in the time between those two points (sometimes referred to as the End Times) and while we have peace in Jesus in our hearts, it is a time of tension and trouble in our world. As the church year draws to a close over the next few weeks, the Bible encourages us to watch and wait and live in the time in between.

Today, on the Sunday after All Saints' Day (November 1, the day after "Hallow's Eve"), we remember the saints who have gone before us, who have finished the race and received the prize of eternal life in heaven. As we journey through this time in between, how do we endure? We remember all the saints and we focus on a future glory that awaits us.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace

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*Grace Lutheran Church
is a member of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
and California Lutheran High School*



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS WHO HAVE DEPARTED

This morning we reflect on the Lord's grace to those who have died in Christian faith (services held here at Grace in 2023: Tom Thornton and Bill Gill, as well as relatives and friends) and now live in greater light than we.

I heard a voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (*Revelation 21:3,4*)

DIALOGUE FOR REFORMATION

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

Amen.

"Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness; I am your sin. You became what you were not and made me to be what I am not."

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together into one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow the example of your blessed saints in lives of faith and willing service and with them at last inherit the inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Revelation 7:9-17

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.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 149

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them.

He said:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

After the Gospel, the congregation says:

Praise be to you, O Christ.



HYMN OF THE DAY

There Is A Higher Throne (#885)

SERMON *based on*

1 John 3:1-3

¹See 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. ²Dear 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. ³All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *God's people pray for the His Church throughout the world.)*

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.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Blest Are They

All
Saints
Sunday

A stylized sun with a spiral center, rendered in shades of orange and yellow, is positioned behind the word "Sunday". Below the text is a horizontal brushstroke in a light tan color, which the word "Sunday" appears to be resting on or emerging from.