


Let those be thy
choicest companions
who have made

Christ
their **chief companion.**



There is a friend that sticketh
closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

Saints Triumphant Sunday

November 15th / November 16th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Marinette, WI 54143
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Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch (715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956)

Jerusalem the Golden

(Hymn 728)

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
there, What ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, What
bliss be - yond com - pare To sing the hymn -
end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song.

2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
bring us To that dear land of rest Where
sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.

Please rise

3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The
day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the
bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There
is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -
leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The
song of them that feast. To God en - throned in
glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The
Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

Confession of Sins

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: *Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

Assurance of Forgiveness

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Old Testament Lesson

What Is God Doing?

In Ezekiel 37, God gives us some vivid pictures of what he does. The first half of the chapter shows his giving life. The second half shows his fixing it when we break it.

God tells Ezekiel to use an object lesson. He joined two sticks together to make them one. In that object lesson God illustrated how he would fix what his people had broken. At first glance, it seems that what God is going to fix is the political fracture between the northern and southern tribes of Israel. But the description doesn't support that thought. God's promise to make them one nation under one king doesn't match any historical state of Israel. Neither does the description of the people. The people in this healed nation will never break the first commandment or indulge in any sinful practice. That doesn't fit any earthly group of people.

God is describing how he would redeem the whole world and bring us into his kingdom. We are called from everywhere on the planet, cleansed of our sin, we are made God's people, and we follow our Good Shepherd. We live in his kingdom forever under God's covenant of peace.

It is always amazing to see God's love in action. He reaches out to sinful, broken people and heals them. He repairs the relationship that we broke and brings us back into his family.

In this chapter, notice how many times God says he will act. He brings, gathers, makes one, saves, cleanses, makes a covenant, establishes, and multiplies his people. God's kingdom is more about what God does than what we do. On Saints Triumphant Sunday, we celebrate God's power on our behalf. Our triumph rests solely and securely in God's almighty power. In the last four verses, God uses the word "forever" four times to describe the coming kingdom. It will be a kingdom without divisions (one stick, one nation, one king, one shepherd—forever). Heaven is our final home of triumph!

We may not think of heaven that often, but it is home. It is ours. And it is forever.

Ezekiel 37:15-28 (EHV)

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me.

¹⁶ Now you, son of man, take one piece of wood and write on it: "Belonging to Judah and belonging to the people of Israel associated with him." Then take another piece of wood and write on it: "Belonging to Joseph, Ephraim's piece of wood, and the whole house of Israel associated with him." ¹⁷ Then hold one piece of wood close to the other to make a single board for yourself, so that they are one in your hand.

¹⁸ When your countrymen say to you, "Won't you tell us what you mean by these things?" ¹⁹ you tell them, "This is what the LORD God says. I am going to take the piece of wood which is in the hand of Ephraim, which is for Joseph and for the tribes of Israel associated with him, and I will attach it to the piece of wood for Judah. In this way I will make them one board, so that they will be one in my hand." ²⁰ The boards on which you will write should be in your hand in front of their eyes.

²¹ Then say this to them. This is what the LORD God says. I am going to take the people of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from all around, and I will bring them to their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will be king for all of them. Never again will they be two nations, and never again will they be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ Never again will they defile themselves with their filthy idols, with their disgusting practices, and with all their rebellious actions. I will save them from all their backsliding by which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴ My servant David will be King over them, and they will all have one Shepherd. They will follow my ordinances and be conscientious about keeping my statutes. ²⁵ They will live on the land I gave my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live there permanently—they, their children, and their grandchildren—and my servant David will be their prince forever. ²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them. It will be an everlasting covenant with them. I will establish them, and I will multiply them and set my sanctuary in their midst forever. ²⁷ My Dwelling Place will be over them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations will know that I, the LORD, make Israel holy when my holy place is in their midst forever.

Gospel Lesson

Are You Ready?

When we read the parable of the Ten Virgins, which group do you see yourself in? The group that was ready? They had oil in their lamps and in reserve. That's wise. And it's how we like to see ourselves.

It is wise to consider what is different between the two groups – and what is not. This is not a comparison between believers and unbelievers—Jesus is talking to his church! There are two main comparisons between the believers.

- 1. The wise were prepared for the long haul. They brought extra oil. The unwise weren't ready for that. Jesus' suggests that Judgment Day will take longer than we might think. "The bridegroom was delayed." And "they all became drowsy and fell asleep." The wise are ready for faithful perseverance. That means that we are ready for a lifetime of service and sacrifice, not a short ride on a wave of positive emotion.*
- 2. The wise went in to enjoy the banquet and the foolish were shut out. It reminds us of Jesus' warning at the close of his Sermon on the Mount: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, ... I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Mt. 7:21-23) The consequences of not being ready are enormous. It's tragic when someone wanders from the faith and experiences the pain and frustration of sin. It's epic disaster for anyone not be ready on Judgment Day!*

Keep watch! Those words are laden with the love and concern of our Good Shepherd, who gave his life for us! "Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Matthew 25:1-13 (EHV)

"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 When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. ⁵ While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' ¹² But he answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' ¹³ Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

1 Behold a host, arrayed in white,
 Like thousand snow-clad mountains
 bright;
 With palms they stand.
 Who is this band
 Before the throne of light?
 These are the saints of glorious
 fame,
 Who from the great affliction came
 And in the flood
 Of Jesus' blood
 Are cleansed from guilt and blame.
 Now gathered in the holy place,
 Their voices they in worship raise.
 Their anthems swell
 Where God does dwell
 Mid angels' songs of praise.

2 Despised and scorned, they
 sojourned here;
 But now, how glorious they appear!
 Those martyrs stand,
 A priestly band,
 God's throne forever near.
 So oft in troubled days gone by,
 In anguish they would weep and
 sigh;
 At home above
 The God of love
 Fore'er their tears shall dry.
 They now enjoy the Sabbath rest,
 The heav'nly banquet of the blest;
 The Lamb, their Lord,
 At festive board
 Himself is host and guest.

3 O blessed saints, now take your rest;
 A thousand times you will be blessed
 For keeping faith
 Firm unto death
 And scorning worldly trust.
 For now you live at home with God;
 You toiled and sowed the Word abroad.
 Rejoice and bring
 Your fruits and sing
 Before the throne of God.
 The myriad angels raise the song;
 O saints, sing with that happy throng!
 Lift up one voice;
 Let heav'n rejoice
 In our Redeemer's song

Epistle Lesson/Sermon Text:
Victory Celebration

In Revelation 19, God gives us a glimpse into the halls of heaven to see the victory that waits for us there.

In heaven, we hear the saints and angels cry, "Hallelujah!" George Handel tried to capture the glory of what John witnessed with his Hallelujah Chorus. His work is inspiring and majestic. It is one of the greatest works of music this side of heaven, but not even his masterpiece can match that distant triumph song.

Through John's vision, God lets us see behind the door that was shut in the parable of the Ten Virgins (our Gospel for this Sunday). He shows us the thunderous praise of the immense congregation in heaven.

By God's grace, we will be in that crowd. Our voices will praise our God and celebrate the wedding of the Lamb. It's our congregation! It's our place! It's our eternal home! We and the entire Christian Church are the Bride, washed clean of all sin and guilt.

Blessed are they who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb! Let us celebrate with all our heart today. And we pray that God will keep us watchful for our coming triumph!

Revelation 19:1-9 (EHV)

After these things I heard what seemed to be the loud sound of an immense crowd in heaven, saying:

Alleluia!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

² for his judgments are true and just,

because he has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality,

and he has avenged his servants' blood that was shed by her hand.

³ A second time they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke goes up forever and ever."

⁴ Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures bowed down and worshipped God, who sits on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

⁵ And from the throne came a voice that said, "Praise our God, all you his servants and you who fear him, small and great."

⁶ And I heard what seemed to be the roar of a large crowd or the roar of many waters or the sound of loud rumblings of thunder, saying:

Alleluia!

For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory,

because the wedding of the Lamb has come.

His bride has made herself ready,

⁸ and she was given bright, clean, fine linen to wear.

(In fact, the fine linen is the "not guilty" verdicts pronounced on the saints.)

⁹ The angel said to me, "Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb." He also said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Prayers for Our family and Friends

The Beaumont Family, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Ardice Cerney, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Jean Harper, Dorothy Johnson, Sally Kamps, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Lisa Schmitt, Marjorie Urbaniak, and Jesse Zach

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: Jesse Adams (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew). **Firefighter: Steve Campbell.**

Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

The 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.*

The Benediction:

*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.*

Forever with the Lord

(Hymn 213)

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| 1 Forever with the Lord!
Amen! So let it be.
Life from the dead is in that word,
My immortality. | 2 While time on earth is spent,
Absent from him I roam,
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent
A day's march nearer home. |
| 3 My Father's house on high,
Home of my soul, how near
At times, to faith's foreseeing eye
The golden gates appear! | 4 Lord, be at my right hand,
Then can I never fail.
If you uphold me, I shall stand;
With you I shall prevail. |
| 5 So when my dying breath
Shall rend the veil in two,
By death I shall escape from death
To endless life with you. | 6 I'll know as I am known;
How shall I love that word
And oft repeat before the throne,
"Forever with the Lord!" |

TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Matthew 5:16 - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*