

All Saints Day (observed) – 2024

Saturday, 11/2 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/3 at 9:00



Basis: Selections from THE COMMITTAL, Lutheran Worship, Little Agenda

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: The Bible says, “...**the living know they will die**” (Eccl. 9:5 NAS-95). Do YOU know YOU will die? Some young people may say, “**No,**” *but many are living with these significant reminders:*

- Our parents have died.
- Our health concerns are increasing.
- Our bodies are becoming weaker.
- Our friends are dying.

Okay, **we** know we are going to die and **we** cannot stop the process; however, we can KNOW and BELIEVE certain things and be AT PEACE. In other words: **KNOWING IS PEACE!**

In this sermon I’m going to share some **Joy-Inspiring Truths** that are spoken during a typical cemetery committal service.

1. **Job 19:25-26 (NIV):** “**I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God...**”
*// Job, who lived about 4,000 years ago, believed **we** his redeemer lived, **we** his own body would be raised to life, and **we** he would see his redeemer with his own eyes! Job’s*

statement is the basis of the famous Easter hymn: *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

2. **John 11:25-26 (NIV):** “Jesus said to [Martha, the sister of Lazarus], ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” // Let’s unpack those important words:
- “I am the resurrection and the life.” – I am the source of life; *I gave it, and I will give it again!*
 - “He who believes in me will live, even though he dies” – For all believers, **physically** we live, we die, and *we will be raised to the fullness of eternal life!*
 - “whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” – For all believers, **spiritually** we are alive now and, though our bodies die, *we will remain alive with God!*
 - “Do you believe this?” – What is YOUR answer?
3. **Follow Up Prayer:** “Merciful Father and Lord of life, with whom live the spirits of those who depart in the faith, we thank You for the blessings of body and soul that You granted to [name], whose earthly remains we now lay to rest. Above all we rejoice at Your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” // Let’s unpack the key phrases:
- “with whom live the spirits of those who depart in the faith” – Departed believers are not with us, *but they are alive and living with God!*
 - “we rejoice at Your gracious promise... that we shall rise again at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Two key resurrection passages – please look them up

and think about them: **Jn. 5:28-29** – “Do not marvel at this...”; **Acts 24:15b-16** – “There shall certainly be...”

4. **1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (NIV)**:

- a. **Vv. 51-53**: “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep [*die*], but we will all be changed [*when Jesus returns*] -- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.” // Now, because of sin, our bodies are perishing, but when Jesus returns:
- i. **The body of every dead person** will be raised and given an imperishable body!
 - ii. **The perishable body of every alive person** will be changed into an imperishable body!
- b. **V. 54**: “When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality [*when Jesus returns*], then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in **victory** [*νίκος*].” // Now, death reigns, but victory is coming!
- c. **Vv. 55-57**: “Where, O death, is your **victory**? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.” // All sinners are losers; so, the Son of God came as our **Champion to win the victory over sin and death**. But how do we share and continue in Jesus’ victory?
- i. **Repent** – turn from your sins and trust in Jesus for eternal life (**Acts 3:19**).
 - ii. **Be baptized** – to receive forgiveness and the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**).

iii. **Read the Bible** – every day ([Matt. 4:4](#)).

iv. **Live unto God’s glory** – every moment ([Mt. 5:16](#)).

5. **Committal:** **“We now commit [name] body to this temporary resting place...” // *Only until Jesus returns!***

6. **Prayer:** **“Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb you sanctified the graves of your saints, and by His glorious resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave which He won for us. Keep us in everlasting fellowship with all that wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him who is the resurrection and the life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.” // Let’s unpack the key phrases:**

- a. **“by the death of Your Son... You destroyed death”** – “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil” ([1 John 3:8 NAS-95](#)).
- b. **“by His rest in the tomb you sanctified the graves of your saints”** – As Jesus rested, *so do our loved ones!*
- c. **“by His glorious resurrection... all who die in Him abide in peace and hope”** – Since Jesus was raised, *we are certain that He will raise believers to life!*
- d. **“Keep us in everlasting fellowship with all that wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him...”** – We have fellowship NOW with all believers, both ♣ on earth and ♣ in heaven!

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, please continue to grow us in *Your truth* and *our peace* – regarding us and our loved ones!

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