

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY

3rd November All Saints' Day

HYMNS: 494 213 210 473

INTROIT: Psalm 149

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of devout people!

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker! Let the children of Zion be joyful over their King!

Let them praise His name with dancing! Let them make music to Him with tambourine and lyre!

For the LORD takes pleasure in His people. He glorifies humble people with salvation.

Let devout people be jubilant in glory! Let them shout for joy on their beds!

Let the high praises of God be in their throats, and double-edged swords in their hands, to carry out vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to tie up their kings with chains and their nobles' feet with iron shackles, to carry out the judgment that has been written against them! This is an honour that belongs to all His devout people. Praise the LORD!

COLLECT: 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. 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 that You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Welcome to all worshipping with us!

Pastor Ziebell can be contacted via phone/text at 0407 583922.

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaalc@gmail.com. Pastor is usually in his office Tuesday-Wednesday for anyone who would like to call in. Other days of the week are set aside for visits.

READINGS: Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17 The great multitude in white robes
1 John 3:1-3 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us!
Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

Revelation 7: (2-8) 9-17

² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east with the seal of the living God. He called out with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to damage the land and the sea, ³ saying: “Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we have **sealed** the servants of our God **on their foreheads!**”

⁴ Then I heard the number of those who had been sealed: “one hundred and forty-four thousand.” These were those who had been sealed were from every tribe of the people of Israel. ⁵ From the tribe of Judah twelve thousand had been sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, ⁶ from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, ⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand and from the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand had been sealed. ⁹ After this, I looked and saw a large crowd that no one could count, from every **nation and all tribes, peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and carrying palm-branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our **God, who sits on the throne** and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne, around the elders and around the four living creatures. They **fell** on their faces before the throne and **worshipped God**, ¹² saying: “Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and strength be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me: “Who are these people who have been clothed in the white robes and where have they come from?”

¹⁴ I replied to him, “My master, you know.”

He told me: “These are the people who have come out of the great tribulation. They have **washed their robes** and have made them white in **the blood of the Lamb**. ¹⁵ Therefore, they are before the throne of God and keep serving Him day and night in His Temple, and **He who is sitting on the throne** will shelter them with His tent. ¹⁶ **They will not be hungry any longer or thirsty any longer. The sun will certainly not beat on them or any scorching heat**, ¹⁷ because the Lamb, who is in the middle of the throne, **will be their Shepherd and lead them to springs of the water of life. God will wipe every tear from their eyes.**”

1 John 3:1-3

¹ See what great love the Father has given to us, that we are called “the children of God”! That is what we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it has not known Him. ² Dearly loved people, we are now the children of God, but it has not yet been shown what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is.

³ Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountainside. When He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² Then He began to speak and continued to teach them:

³ “Blessed are those who are **poor in spirit!** For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are **those who mourn!** For they will **be comforted.**

⁵ “Blessed are **those who are meek!** For they **will inherit the earth.**

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness! For they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are **those who are merciful!** For **they will be treated mercifully.**

⁸ “Blessed are **those who are pure in heart!** For they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are those who make peace! For they will be called ‘the children of God.’

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who have been 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! ¹² Rejoice and be very glad! For your reward in heaven is great. For in this way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.

WHAT IS A SAINT?

Sermon for All Saints Day, 2024

Matthew 5:1-12

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our Gospel, which was read before, Matthew 5:1-12 Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

We have come to the Lord’s house today to celebrate All Saints’ Day. ‘Saint’ is a special, but often misunderstood word that can mean different things to different people. If the word ‘saint’ means different things to different people, then what do we make about that phrase in the Apostles’ Creed where it says that the church is the “*Communion of Saints*”? If the word ‘saint’ means different things to different people, then so does the phrase “*Communion of Saints.*” What or who, then, is a saint? What or who is the “*Communion of Saints*”?

The popular notion is to think of a saint as someone of great faith. Some are from the Bible, like St. Peter or St. Paul. Others are those who have lived since the time of the Bible but have practised their faith in an extraordinary way, like

St. Jerome, St. Augustine, or even St. Nicholas. Many people think of saints as some sort of super Christians who were just plain better than the rest of us.

There are several problems with this popular notion of saints. For one thing, it gives us an excuse. If we believed this notion, it would be quite proper for us to say, “*I can’t confess my faith to others very well. After all, I am no saint,*” or “*I can’t catechise my children. That takes a saint, and I am no saint.*” Such an attitude would cause the church to stagnate while we all waited for the super Christian saint to step forward and do all the work.

Then there is the problem of giving saints godlike qualities. Some people like to have small statues of saints in their homes or elsewhere that become good luck charms. They will even pray to these saints as though they can answer their prayers.

The Bible, on the other hand, defines the word saint *differently*.

In the opening greeting of most of his letters, the Apostle Paul addressed his readers as saints. He would say something like, “*To those who are loved by God and called to be His saints.*”

What, therefore, is the true meaning of the word “saint?” Why have such a day on the Lutheran calendar where we gather to remember the saints? Do “saints” have any significance for our faith?

Before we attempt to answer these questions, we must first of all, without any question or doubt, focus our attention on Christ. It must be stated from the outset that the saints of the Church, past and present, are not essential for us or for our faith because they might in any way be the *mediators* between Christ and us as if there were some chasm that the saints would need to bridge between Christ and us. And indeed, the saints are not important because they may be the recipients of our prayers and petitions as if we were afraid to address almighty God directly. Neither are the saints important to our faith because they performed so many good works that they could pass some of them on to us or others to get people out of that made-up place of purgatory all the sooner. No, our attention must solely be on Christ and Him alone.

How did the celebration of All Saints’ Day come to be?

Around the late 4th century AD, the Christian Church developed an appreciation for those who confessed and sometimes died for their faith. However, the Feast of All Saints’ Day was not fully established until around the 7th century AD. Unfortunately, as time went on, deep corruption began to develop within the Church regarding the honour given to the saints, resulting in what could only be described as idolatrous worship, as some churches began to venerate and pray to the saints in heaven for various helps.

By the time of the Reformation, this corruption of venerating and praying to the saints was deeply seated in the Roman Catholic Church. This led the Lutheran confessors to write an article in the Augsburg Confession on worshipping the saints. The confessors say in Article 21: “*Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling... But the Scriptures do not teach that we are to call on the saints or to ask the saints for help. Scripture sets before us the one Christ as the Mediator, Atoning Sacrifice, High Priest, and Intercessor (1 Tim. 2:5-6). He is to be prayed to.*”

The salvation of any soul depends ***entirely on God’s grace and the free forgiveness He promises through His Son, Jesus Christ***. No saint in heaven or on earth is not totally dependent on this undeserved grace of Christ, yet, as Christ Himself shows us today, remembering the saints can be a good help for our Christian faith in three ways: First, because it frees us from relying on our own spiritual achievements, second, because it encourages us to grow in faith, and third, because it directs our focus to the final goal.

The Holy Gospel for today, Matthew 5:1-12, witnesses to a most impressive beatification: an action that turns sinners into saints. Matthew begins by saying, “**When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountainside. When He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² Then He began to speak and continued to teach them.**”

Although the audience was primarily Jesus’ disciples, the large crowds following Jesus were evidently in the background listening in to perhaps what would have to be one of Jesus’ greatest sermons. With power and mercy, He has begun His ministry in the land of Israel, for the people of Israel. He has begun His preaching, teaching, and healing. Now, this powerfully *gracious* Jesus has sat down, and opening His mouth, He begins to teach, making saints of His audience.

Without any doubt whatsoever, all of us gathered here today are saints! We do not need to die before we are called saints. We are already saints because we belong to God and have His Word. We were made holy when Christ Himself declared: *I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*. We belong to God; we can now live in fellowship with Him forever. And we didn’t earn this title of honour because we have led or will, from now on, lead an exemplary life. No, *Jesus* has led us into God’s kingdom just as He led those on the mountainside into God’s kingdom - not because they could point to some immense spiritual achievement or because they had passed a holiness test, not even the testing of their faith. Nothing of their own qualified them to be called “saints” - except that they came to Jesus with completely empty hands, having nothing to offer God that could have impressed Him. “**Blessed are those who are poor in spirit!**” Jesus says, “**For**

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” *That’s the way Jesus makes saints. That’s the way Jesus acted upon our dearly departed family and friends who are now with Him in glory, and that is how He has acted upon us. In Holy Baptism, we became saints. Being made holy, God took us to be His children without us adding anything to that act, and **nothing will change that until the day we die.** What counts at the end of our lives is not the number of spiritual brownie points we have accumulated through all sorts of “good works.” No. In the end, only this will count: that we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, showing Him our totally empty hands, and He will take us by those hands into His kingdom.*

This is what we ought to practice in our Christian life on earth: asking Christ constantly to shower His gifts of grace and mercy on us, not expecting anything from ourselves but everything from our Saviour. This is what all who have gone to heaven—the saints who have gone before us—can teach us.

Becoming a saint is a gracious gift of God to those who do not rely on themselves and their abilities. Because of this, while we’re here on earth and facing struggles in our daily lives, we need encouragement, or, as the Augsburg Confession puts it, as we mentioned earlier: *“Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling.”*

Did you notice it in our text? The people whom Jesus receives into the kingdom of God and declares to be saints are pretty much the opposite of what most people in our society aspire to.

³ “Blessed are those who are poor in spirit! For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn! For they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are those who are meek! For they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness! For they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are those who are merciful! For they will be treated mercifully.

⁸ “Blessed are those who are pure in heart! For they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are those who make peace! For they will be called ‘the children of God.’

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who have been persecuted because of righteousness! For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Surely, poverty is not our goal; we seek possessions. Instead of suffering, we would rather have fun. Forget meekness! Use your elbows to shove others out of your way. Instead of mercy, we choose cleverness, and we do not want to sacrifice our lives, but instead strive to keep them at any price.

But let me repeat: Christ here is not issuing His set of demands that need to be fulfilled to enter the kingdom of God. Rather, He consoles those who do not seem to fit into the general lifestyle of this world. It’s not you who are “unfit” for the Kingdom, but those who consider themselves the measure of everything.

You are not “unfit” just because you notice that many things around you are not the way God wants them to be.

When Christ invites people into His kingdom, He imprints them and empowers them to live lives that follow His footsteps. The examples of the saints gone before encourage us to lead a different life and not to do what “everybody else” thinks is proper. That’s why we commemorate the saints. They give us encouraging examples of the Christian life—faith and hope as followers of Christ.

Finally, Christ Jesus makes some amazing promises to those He calls “**blessed**” - promises that go far beyond anything fulfilled in our lifetime when He says, “**Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of Me! ¹² Rejoice and be very glad! For your reward in heaven is great. For in this way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.**” Jesus promises never-ending consolation to those who mourn and are reviled for His sake—and aren’t we reviled today—especially when we speak out against such horrors as abortion, same-sex marriage, or homosexuality? But we have no fear because “**those who are pure in heart ... will see God.**” This is His promise.

Since we live in a world that is becoming so much more hostile to true saints, Christ Jesus teaches us not to focus all our attention on earthly woes but to direct our eyes on that goal at which so many before us have arrived. He has fulfilled the promises He made in the Sermon on the Mount. Whether it be our departed father, mother, husband, wife, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters—they, together with all those saints of every nation and tribe¹ who have gone before now stand in God’s presence. They see what they had believed, participate in heaven’s unending life, are forever consoled, and join in with a loud voice, saying, “*Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!*” (Rev. 7:10).

What encouragement is there for you to stick to it, persevere in the faith, never give up or fall away, and always focus on the goal to be achieved? Don’t let up. Do not be seduced by all sorts of temptations from the outside or the inside or by your weakness. God has led the saints of old in their faith, and in Baptism, He has promised to do the same for you.

From the goal that by God’s grace and in their faith in Christ they have already reached, the saints join our celebration at Christ’s Holy Supper. We join them in worship as we sing, “*Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and magnify Your glorious name, evermore*

¹ Revelation 7:9

praising You.” The liturgy on earth is part of the unceasing praise before God’s throne, and the table around which we gather to receive Christ’s body and blood penetrates the wall of death to become part of the great feast in God’s kingdom.

We do not walk toward the goal alone. We are surrounded by the multitude of saints, both those visible sharing with us the church pews this day and those who have gone before to their final completion in Christ. **“Rejoice and be very glad!”** Jesus has called out to all who were persecuted because of Him. **“Rejoice and be very glad!”** He calls out to all of you. You’ve not taken the wrong road, even though some people may try to convince you of that or even if it may look like that. You are on the right road to the right goal, to the kingdom of heaven, where they’re waiting for you already: Moses, Abraham, David, Peter, Paul, your loved ones who have died in the faith, and innumerable others as well. Isn’t that a terrific reason to **“Rejoice and be very glad!”**? Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS’ DAY

Almighty God and Father, in wisdom You have made the world and all things, seen and unseen. We praise You for the gift of life, for the wonderful creation of our bodies, for our moral and spiritual capacities, and for the marvellous gifts of intelligence and reason. But, above all else, we thank and praise You for the gift of faith, by which we know You and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. We praise and worship Him for showing us Your great love by dying the death that enables sinners to live for ever. We praise You for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who has brought us to faith in Jesus, and has changed our hearts from rebellion against You to love and praise for You.

Today we thank you for all the saints remembered and forgotten, for those dear souls who are now standing in Your presence. We thank You for calling them in this life to be Your children, and we thank You that we too, have been called by You to be saints.

Therefore, let us clearly recognise what it means to be called the children of God, and to remember that we are your saints not by our own inclination nor strength, but simply by Your gracious call and forgiveness that we have freely received through our Saviour, Christ Jesus.

In mercy, pour out Your Spirit on us anew each day, so that our love, knowledge, and spiritual power may keep on growing, and our lives may be filled with the truly good qualities that only Jesus Christ can produce. Lead us by Your Spirit to love one another with brotherly love, and to forgive one another as You have forgiven us for Christ’s sake.

Keep Your church in the true fellowship of the Gospel, that it may stand firm in the faith. Protect it against all its enemies, that it may serve You freely. We ask you to continue to bless the ministry of the AELC, and to raise up men to be pastors to your flock.

We remember those of Your children who are being persecuted because of their faith. Uphold them by Your Spirit, and give them patient endurance, that they may witness to Your saving power. Move those who oppress them to turn to You. Free Your people from all falsehood and error and lead them along the road of truth and godliness.

Fill the leaders of the nations with Your light and dispel the darkness of sin and spiritual ignorance. Lead people everywhere to enjoy peace and happiness as they learn to love and follow You. Give wisdom and strength to all in authority in our country, that they may serve according to Your direction, and our people may live in unity and uprightness. Frustrate the schemes of the wicked, and further the efforts of the godly.

Move parents to sow Your Word in the hearts of their children, that the young may be raised in the ways of Christ and live lives that are a blessing to church, country, and mankind. Give parents the understanding and patience they need for their God-given responsibilities.

Watch over the sick, the sad, and the troubled. Stand by them in their sufferings and help them in all their burdens. Protect all who are in any danger of body or soul and save them by Your wise love. Help us in all times of need to look to You for pardon, peace, and healing.

These, and all other things that we may need, give us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who, together with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Article: Your Future Is Bright and Glorious!

Our First Reading today came from the Book of Revelation. We heard John say, *“After this, I looked and saw a large crowd that no one could count, from every nation and all tribes, peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and carrying palm-branches in their hands.”* (7:9). This part of the vision recorded by John helps us to see that the life of a Lutheran congregation is not just about living Sunday to Sunday or year to year or decade to decade or even a hundred years together. This vision helps us to see the goal of every Christian, every congregation, and the church militant across the earth: to be part of this great multitude for eternity that no one can number from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before God’s throne, standing before Christ, the Lamb slain for our sin, clothed in resurrected glory for eternity. Why do we seek to establish congregations? Why do we seek to be faithful in reaching out to the lost in our community year after year? Why do we call pastors, teach Sunday School, give offerings sacrificially each week, and continue planning for the future? So that we and many others from the congregation, the community, and this generation of sinners may be part of this great multitude before the throne of the Lamb!

Why did God first give this vision to John to share with the seven churches and many others in future generations? Because He knew that the faithful saints of these congregations had struggles in the past, they were going through struggles in the

present, and they would encounter more in the future. Sin was alive and well in these pagan cities of ancient Rome. In the seven letters that Jesus dictates in Revelation 2–3, we hear of false apostles, false teaching, sexual immortality, the Jezebel-like priestess, spiritual lukewarmness, and much more.

This sounds a lot like the world today! Even much of the church is confused about what marriage is, how sexuality should be experienced, and who created this world in the first place. As we heard in the Beatitudes of our Gospel, Jesus promised His faithful church would face challenges: *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of Me! ¹² Rejoice and be very glad! For your reward in heaven is great”* (Matt. 5:11-12).

God gave this vision of the future, of the Church Triumphant after the day of resurrection, to encourage us about our individual future and our future as congregations. This is our future: risen, living, worshipping, and singing for all eternity, *“Salvation belongs to our God,”* namely the One sitting on the throne, and *“the Lamb. . . . Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and strength be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.”* (vv 10, 12). Knowing this is our future encourages us to be faithful and active witnesses in the present.

What is the reason given here for these saints being in heaven? Are they there because of the great lives they lived, the number of boards on which they served, or the church meetings that they attended? No, there is only one reason given for their status: *“They have washed their robes and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb”* (v 14). Our future as congregations, our future as the church militant on earth, and our future as the Church Triumphant in heaven is based upon the blood of the Lamb, Jesus the Christ, that was shed on Calvary’s cross to atone for our sin, for all sin! As John the Baptist proclaimed when he saw Jesus: *“Behold, the Lamb of God who is taking away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29). We are saints, holy ones, now and forever through the holy blood of Jesus.

This vision in Revelation 7 is dripping with irony. The last thing you usually want on white robes would be blood; it stains permanently. But the blood that Jesus shed cleanses permanently because it is a payment in full for sin. It is blood that continues to cleanse us from sin today as we hear of it here and as we drink it at the altar of our church.

This vision is one of the most extensive descriptions in the Scriptures of what we as the Church will do after Christ’s return into eternity. Listen to your future as Christians, as a congregation, once again: *“Therefore, they are before the throne of God and keep serving Him day and night in His Temple, and He who is sitting on the throne will shelter them with His tent. ¹⁶ They will not be hungry any longer or thirsty any longer. The sun will certainly not beat on them or any scorching heat, ¹⁷ because the Lamb, who is in the middle of the throne, will be their Shepherd and lead them to*

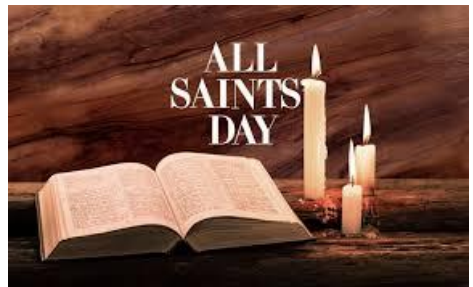
springs of the water of life. God will wipe every tear from their eyes” (vv 15–17). None of our years on earth have been without tears of pain and struggle; there will be more tears in the years you have left in your earthly journey; of that, you can be sure. You have shed some tears, no doubt, in saying a temporary goodbye to some of the saints of your extended family and church family who are now with the Lord. But nothing ever has, nor nothing ever will, separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. He refreshes us daily for our work in the world and our service to Him in His Church. But one day sin will be no more—no more hunger and thirst and struggle. Our baptismal garments will be exchanged for the permanent robe of resurrected glory, and God will wipe every tear of pain and suffering from our eyes.

Revelation 7 helps you to see your ultimate and certain future as forgiven saints through the blood of Christ: God Himself will be with you, and He will wipe every tear from your eyes. Death will be no more, neither shall there be any mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore—and you will see His face! That is your bright and glorious future as saints through the blood of Jesus.

Children’s Message:

Today, we’re celebrating a very special feast day of the church year called All Saints’ Day.

What’s a saint? A saint is a holy one, a holy person. That means he or she is very, very special. In fact, “holy” is even the opposite of “sinful,” so a holy person is one who isn’t guilty of sin. Wow! That’s something, isn’t it? You and I both sin. We all do things that are against God’s commandments, things we shouldn’t do. So, being a saint—wow! That’s really something!



If a saint is that special—not guilty of sin—how many saints do you think there could be? Well, let’s think about that. From which book of the Bible did our First Reading today come? It came from the book of Revelation. John wrote Revelation. St. John. There’s a saint. St. John was a saint. That’s at least one saint.

Do you suppose John is the only saint? John was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus—Peter, Andrew, James, Matthew and the rest. Twelve disciples. Do you suppose they were saints? I’m sure they were. That’s twelve. But you know what? In our Bible reading from Revelation, St. John said he saw lots more saints in heaven.

Saints are people who aren’t guilty of sin, and you and I sin. But here is some news for you: even St. John and St. Peter and all those saints St. John saw in heaven sinned when they were alive. Everybody sins. So, how could there be so many saints? How can anybody be a saint?

Well, saints are those people whose sins are forgiven by faith, by believing that Jesus' death on the cross took their sins away. All the saints are people who believe Jesus died for their sins. So there are lots and lots of saints, and we, too, are saints! How wonderful to be called a saint in Jesus' kingdom. One day, we shall see Jesus face to face and shall join in with others singing and worshipping Him forever more!

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 November 25 Pentecost	17 November 26 Pentecost	24 November Last Sunday of the Church Year
8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG LR (Pastor will be away this Sunday)	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC
Sunday, 10 November		
READINGS: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44		
HYMNS: 388 870 372 (75 327) 865		
Sunday, 17 November		
READINGS: Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-13		
HYMNS: 144 485 188 512		
Sunday, 24 November		
READINGS: Isaiah 51:4-6; Jude 20-25; Mark 13:24-37		

Wednesday, November 6, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Bethlehem Toowoomba. Opening devotion: Julie. Choose a Bible verse from: Deuteronomy 8-11. Item of Interest: Something gold. (Note this will not be our breakup. That will happen in December).

Saturday, 9 November, 10.00am CoC/Sem Committee meeting at Bethlehem Toowoomba.

Saturday, 9 November, 1.00pm. The next fellowship afternoon will be held at Bethlehem Toowoomba. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday, 9 November, 7:00pm, YAY (Young Adults and Youth) is on at Aubigny. Please bring yourself, your Bible, and a plate to share for supper for an evening of games, food, socialising, and devotion. The hall opens from 6:30pm for games and socialising for all young adults and youth.