

New Hope Lutheran Church

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November 6, 2022
All Saints Sunday

Coming Events

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---|
| Nov 7 | 1:00 | Worship & Music Zoom |
| Nov 8 | 2:00 | Kammari Impola |
| | 7:00 | Eng Bible Study Zoom |
| Nov 9 | 10 – 1 | Kahvi Time Regent St. |
| | 6:30 | Council meeting Regent St. |
| Nov 10 | 6:30 | Finnish Bible Study Zoom |
| Nov 13 | 10:00 | Finnish Worship Service † Voima Hall |
| | 2:00 | English Worship Service † Regent St |
| Nov 27 | 9:00 | Bilingual Worship Service Voima Hall |
| | 10:15 | Congregational meeting Voima Hall |

In our prayers Leena, Eero, Ron, Ruth, Marilyn.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, 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, we pray through Jesus Christ our savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalms 149

- ¹ Praise the Lord. **Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.**
- ² Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.
- ³ **Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.**
- ⁴ For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.
- ⁵ **Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.**

First Reading “**Daniel 7:1 – 3, 15 – 18**”

¹ In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷“As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever.”

Second Reading “**Ephesians 1:11 – 23**”

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope

on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel “**Luke 6:20 – 31**”

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

*“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.*

*²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.*

*“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.*

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and

leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴*“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.*

²⁵*“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.*

*“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.*

²⁶*“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is
what their ancestors did to the false prophets.*

²⁷*“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do
good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse
you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes
you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone
who takes away your coat do not withhold even your
shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if
anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them
again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to
you.”*

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

*By Rev. Charles Nolting
“Inspired By Saints”*

Today we celebrate All Saints Sunday, a day specially set aside for remembering people who blessed our lives through their words, their actions, and their sharing with us. They may well have been people who shaped us in some way, inspired us, and perhaps weren't even aware of it.

Most people think about grandparents when talking about saints who shaped their lives. I never got to know my grandparents, which made becoming a grandparent a scary prospect for me because I didn't have a clue as to what I was supposed to do. No one had ever shown me, and I was unable to find any grandparent courses available online. You would think that must be taught somewhere!

I suppose the good thing to come out of all that is that my lack of grandparents led me to find others in my life who could fill a gap I knew needed filling. In such a situation one picks their own mentors. If you are fortunate, you are able to choose a number of mentors – the saints who gave and perhaps continue to give you guidance - at some point over the course of your lifetime.

Today I want to remember Arnold, my most fond mentor. I met Arnold at choir, an older man as gifted at singing as I am, meaning they stuck us both in the back row, where he was the official supplier and distributor of “Halls” cough drops to choir members.

Arnold had been a good Lutheran all his life with his beginnings in the Ottawa area, and then sent to defend our country against the Nazi's by travelling down to New York City and assigned to help film segments in support of the war effort. He told me his war stories such as collecting the silver wrappings from cigarette packages, to be put together as screens for lights to reflect off of.

After the war, Arnold and Les, his best friend from childhood, parlayed their “military expertise” into working at the CBC in Montreal where they became Canada's first special effects team, smoke and mirrors being their specialty. Using only their imaginations and whatever they could scrounge for cheap, they made all kinds of amazing things happen in CBC productions.

After a long career with the CBC, the pair retired early, and purchased a patent for a film cleaning solution from Kodak, starting their own film restoration business in Arnold's basement in Belleville, Ontario. I know that sounds a bit off, but Arnold once showed me a filthy roller and somberly informed me that he had all the dirt from the film “Gandhi”, as that particular roller had cleaned the original before being copied. He had film production contacts all over North America and even parts of Europe.

As great as all this is, the most important thing to me about Arnold was his faith. He showed me that faith isn't some dour or dull prospect, but filled with joy, humor, and blessings. His example became a part of my example to the world.

I mention all this because today I want you to consider who your mentors of faith were in your lives. How did you meet them? How did they affect you? How did they influence you? What about them do you still copy to this day?

I ask these questions to remind you that we are surrounded by the saints living and dead not only today, but every day. Remember them and how they blessed your life with their lives of faith. Copy their good habits, and give thanks to God for their positive influence. And then, be saints to others, bringing them blessings in any way you can. Amen.

Prayers

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

Holy One, your church rests on the faithful who came before us. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders the will to carry the church forward and discern your will for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, the earth is yours and all that dwells within it. Care for places ravaged by natural disasters (*especially Pakistan*). Quell raging fires and halt destruction caused by flooding. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, you raise up leaders to guide your people. Kindle in them a passion to care for others, a desire to seek the common good, and the courage to love their enemies. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, you bless those who are poor, hungry, and reviled. Provide food, housing, and security to all who are vulnerable or in crisis. May those who have more than enough give generously. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, hold us in community with one another. Nurture a spirit of abundant hospitality and intentional inclusion among us, welcoming the gifts of adults and children. Inspire creative visions for our life together. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, we remember in thanksgiving all those who have died. Wipe away our tears and comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**