

Isaiah 57:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 11:21-27 NIV

All Saints Day!

Services: Sunday, 11/5 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 11/6 at 7 PM

Church Year: All Saints Day (Observed) – 2017

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today's sermon is three readings with notes; I urge you to read, think, study, and pray. You can also benefit more by listening to the audio version of this sermon:

- www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
 - Podcast: Benefit from the Bible
1. **OLD TESTAMENT**: **Isaiah 57:1-2 NIV** – *The blessings of those who die in Jesus!* ¹ The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. ² Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.
 - a. “righteous” – That word describes people who trust in Jesus alone as their Savior. Such people are *perfectly right* in God's sight.
 - b. “taken away” – Death has two perspectives:
 - i. **Loved ones on earth** – sad, because death has brought separation.

- ii. **God in heaven** – happy, because He has taken a believer in Jesus from this evil world to Himself in heaven!
 - c. **“walk uprightly”** – That does not save, but is the fruit of faith in Jesus!
 - d. **“peace”** – That is the blessed state of those who have died with their faith in Jesus!
 - e. **“rest”** – That is now true for the bodies of all believers, until Jesus’ raises them to live forevermore ([John 5:28-29](#)).
2. **EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 NIV** – *Paul notes the key aspects of Jesus’ saving work!* ¹ Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you [*the good news of Jesus and His finished work*], which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you **hold firmly to the word I preached to you.** Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that **he appeared** to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me...

- a. Note “the gospel” in verse 1; then “received,” “stand,” and “saved” in vv. 1-2.
 - b. Many begin well, but *finishing well* is even more important: See verse 2.
 - c. Note the key components of Jesus’ saving work in vv. 3-5, “died,” “buried,” “raised,” and “appeared.”
3. **HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:21-27 NIV** – *Jesus offers comfort and hope to all who believe in Him!* ²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”
- a. Vv. 21-22: Since Martha believed that Jesus is the Son of God, *she knew He could raise her brother back to life!*
 - b. Vv. 23-24: With God all things are possible; He can raise anyone now, *and He will certainly raise everyone in the future (Acts 24:15b-16)!*

- c. V. 25: Our bodies are alive now and will eventually die, *but they will live again* ([John 5:28](#))!
- d. V. 26: We are spiritually alive through Jesus, so, even when our bodies die, *we will continue to be alive with Jesus!*
- e. V. 27: Let us ever-believe in Jesus *as our only Savior* ([Acts 4:12](#); [John 14:6](#))!