

to do. So that no-one I know will miss out on Jesus' celebration of life.

Let us pray.

Jesus you've told us that the harvest is ripe. We ask that you would send out workers into your harvest field. We ask especially that you send out workers to those we know, who don't know you. We dearly want them to be with us in your celebration of life. Use us and all you've blessed us with to extend and grow your kingdom, so that no one is lost. Give us your passion for seeking and saving the lost. Amen.

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## **Christ Church Lutheran**

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

7 November 2010

## **GOD OF THE LIVING**

Luke 20:37,38



The verse that caught my attention from the Gospel reading was: "Even Moses exclaimed about resurrection at the burning bush, saying, 'God: God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob!' God isn't the God of dead men, but of the living. To him all are alive." (Luke 20:37,38)

Good News, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob aren't just names of people from some irrelevant past, but they are very much alive to God. The God who promised himself to them has kept his word. He didn't just use them to get what he wants and then forget about them. God is faithful, and when he makes a promise you can risk your life on it.

And just as these three men are alive to God, so are all those who have died in Christ. Those we love who have died in Christ are today very much alive to God. For to him all are alive. They haven't moved out of the reach of God's love, but are firmly in our heavenly Father's embrace.

So today as we gather to worship the Father, being lead by Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, we are joining all those who have died in Christ. We don't worship on our own, but with all the Father's children; past and present. At Jesus' feet we transcend time and space, and are all joined together, celebrating our heavenly Father. For his great desire is to share his life with us.

Death never gets the last word. Jesus will have the last word, and his word is a word of resurrection. In fact Jesus is that last word. We don't worship a book. We don't risk our lives on a bunch of words, no matter how true they are, we risk our lives in the 'Living One'. Jesus is alive. Jesus is 'The Word'. Jesus is 'The Truth'. We have a living relationship with God, for Jesus is alive.

So today I join my Dad as together we join in worshipping our Father, lead by Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. Today we'll be together at Jesus' table being feed by him to live the life he gives.

Today we are reminded that death isn't the end, Jesus is! Jesus is where our life is heading to.

When people ask you; 'where is this world heading?' 'Where is life heading?' You can confidently tell them, we are all heading to meet Jesus. We'll all end up at Jesus feet. There is nothing more certain, the world will come to and end, and that end is Jesus.

Thankfully that's not a dead end, but Jesus is the 'Living One'. The one who gave his life that we too might have the joy of sharing life with God. We were never born for death, but for God, for life with God. Isn't that truly amazing that God wants to share his life with us, for no other reason than he loves us.

Of course I'm assuming we all know that ending up at Jesus' feet can be the cause of celebration and life, or the cause of unending regret and eternal death. They're the two options we have, life with God in his loving embrace

through Jesus. Or, rejection, eternal death, being sapped of all love, of all purpose, being left hopeless, having judged ourselves as not wanting the living God in our lives and having been granted our wish!

Let no-one deceive you, the stakes are high.

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### Where's the world heading?

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Higher than life or death, it's eternal life or ultimate misery in eternal pain; hopeless, unloved, void of any meaning or purpose, with no way out.

This is the sobering reality we remember today, and celebrate for those we know who are now safe in Jesus' care. Today we celebrate those who have finished their lives, faithful to Jesus, having trusted him with their lives, having shared life

with Jesus as his disciple. Who today are still very much alive to God. Alive as the Father's loved children, who he is still very much pleased with, and eager to tell all the world of his love for his precious children.

Of course that's what he is going to do on Judgement Day, when Jesus returns, to judge all people. The judgment will be simple, those who are the Father's children will be celebrated, rejoiced over by their Heavenly Father. He'll proudly declare to the whole world, and to all those in heaven, that these are his loved children, and he's excited about sharing his life with them.

For those who have rejected Jesus and chosen to run their own lives, their own way. The judgement will be a confirmation of their wish, no celebration of the Father's love, but

tragically they will be left as orphans, left in a harsh, unforgiving world, exposed to all sorts of dangers, with no one to care for them, no one to protect them. Only a never ending horror, with no escape.

Isn't it tragic that the Sadducees in the Gospel reading are only interested in play silly theological games with Jesus? The stakes are so high; it's people's lives we're empowered to save. Isn't that Good News, in Jesus you are empowered to save people's lives.

The risen Lord Jesus said; "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21) We are empowered to be agents of life. Jesus' warriors who bring life and not death.

So today reminds me that we have great reason to celebrate. We know the 'Living One'.

We are known by Jesus, and we know him person to person. We can celebrate that all those who have died in Christ are alive. That gives me great comfort, and great hope. What a great reason to celebrate today.

Today also reminds me that I'm in the midst of

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### JESUS

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a battle, a battle I don't want to lose. Because what is lost is what Jesus and myself hold most precious. Those we love. The reality I'm reminded of today is that those who die outside of Christ, don't have a good future. They actually have a hellish one. They don't have a life to celebrate, but an eternity to regret.

Have I fallen for the trap of the Sadducees in our Gospel story today, arguing about ideas,

while people's lives are going to ruin. While people are going to hell. Jesus doesn't argue about words, he brings life. Jesus pays the price for us to have life, and that price was his own life.

We don't speak empty words; we speak the word of life; Jesus.

So today I celebrate, but I'm also refocused and renewed in my commitment to follow Jesus, and use the time he gives to fight for people's lives. The stakes are high. Too high to waste time arguing over words, when we could be fighting to save people. When I could be introducing people to the 'Author of Life', Jesus. So that they too could be part of Jesus' celebration of life.

So today I want to renew my commitment to 'GO'. To go and make disciple for Jesus, as he has empowered us