

## The Weekly Devotion

Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020

### “Veterans of the Cross”

**READING:** Revelation 7:9, 13-17 – After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands...Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes – who are they and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Tomorrow is Veterans Day, and I want to commend all our military veterans with a “well done” and a “thanks for your service!” My dad was a Korean vet and proud of his service. He was, thankfully, never in combat (although he did get shot “just once” from long range), but he spent a long, cold winter in South Korea, not far from the DMZ. As a medic, he saved the life of a soldier who managed to accidentally shoot himself in the arm pit with his carbine. The whole experience was one that was formative in his life, but also one he wouldn’t have taken a million dollars to repeat.

Last Monday we pulled bread for the Turkey Supper, and I was seeing “ghosts”. That was my 31<sup>st</sup> time pulling bread, and when I do that I think back and remember the faces of all those saints with whom I pulled bread in the years gone by. I see Chuck Osburn in the kitchen with a frilly apron on, wearing a tie, and sharpening knives. I see Roxie Minter and Joyce Appleby arguing about how best to do some task in that same kitchen. I see Frances Anderson, Frances Borkenheim, and Frances Conrad (“Frances’s A, B, and C”) sitting at the tables pulling bread and sharing the latest intelligence they had gathered from their network of friends. I see Irene and Chet Norton, Grace Martin, Mildred Lewellen, Esther Hilton, Pearl Croxall, Delphine Dunlap, and others who pop in and out of my mind. And, of course, I could hear the echoes of Ron Jenkins’ voice giving orders and teasing nearly everyone there!

On All Saints Day, when we commemorated those of our congregation whom the Lord called home to glory in this past year, I could picture each one in my mind. I’ve been here so long that when someone dies, I don’t mourn a parishioner, but a family member. Each death makes me sad; each passing causes me to mourn. If it were not for the promise of eternal life and reunion in heaven that the Father has given us through his Son, Jesus Christ, this would

be a miserable calling. So many faces; so many memories; so many “Veterans of the Cross”. And that is what they are.

When we live our lives connected to Christ Jesus, we are connected as well to his cross. Life has its ups and downs; it has its hurts and joys and sorrows. But always we see them all through the cross and the Resurrection, supported and comforted by the promise that connected to Jesus, we are connected to each other and to all those who have already received their crown ahead of us. Those folks I was remembering are not lost to us, nor are they far from us. We will see them again. We will embrace them again. And we will worship our God and King together with them in glory.

So, a blessed Veterans Day to those of you who served our nation when she called. And, a blessed remembrance of all the Veterans of the Cross who touched our lives and our hearts. They live with Christ as will we, and we will see them again before the Throne and in front of the Lamb, wearing the white robes of Jesus’ righteousness, waving the Victor’s palm branches, and rejoicing to be in His presence forever. Amen.

Will you prayer with me...

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) **BLOOD DRIVE:** Thursday, 3-7 in the gym.
- 2) **THANKS:** to all who made the Turkey Supper possible and successful. Special thanks to Joan Longest, Rick Fetz, and the Elders.
- 3) **THANKSGIVING BASKETS and LOVE OFFERING:** We intend to gift about 30 families with turkeys and the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. We need the usual food items and/or financial donations with which to buy those things. You can earmark your gifts on the website or Push/Pay or mail in a check written to Grace and noted with “Thanksgiving Baskets”.
- 4) **VOTERS ASSEMBLY:** Sunday, November 22, right after the Late Service. Lunch provided.
- 5) **THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 PM.
- 6) **ADVENT SERVICE SERIES:** “Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with Your God”  
Based on Micah 6:8 – Dec. 2, 9, & 16, 7:00 PM