November 1, 2026 | ***He Weeps with Us*** | Pastor Eddie Eddy

Revelation 21:1-6 **New International Version (NIV)** *21 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.*

John 11:32-44 **New International Version (NIV)**

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead *38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."*

"He Weeps with Us"

In today's Scripture we really see both the human side and the divine side of our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm sure that some of you probably remember having to memorize scripture back in Sunday school.

If you could do it, there was the board on the wall that would hold all your gold stars. Remember gold stars? Maybe in my case though, it only held the potential for some gold stars. I don't really have a vivid recall of a lot of gold star-covered space next to my name.

Anyway, it was a pretty good bet that we would all have at least 1 gold star for this passage…and this is one that all of us should commit to memory, not because it is the shortest verse in the Bible, but because of what it says about our savior:

John 11:35: Jesus wept.

It is the only record in the Bible we have of Jesus weeping. He arrives at the home of his friend Lazarus, and he sees Mary and Martha weeping. They're weeping over the loss of their brother. Jesus is so stirred by their grief that, he too is moved to tears in an act of real and raw and human emotion. Jesus joins them in weeping. And his expression of grief shows all the more clearly the great love Jesus has…not just for his friends in this story…but for each one of us. If you are weeping right now at the loss of a loved one, know this: Jesus weeps with us.

In verse 39 we see the other side of Jesus, the divine side…the supernatural side, the side with total power and control…the Son of God who has in His hands the power over life and death. He reveals his power when he commands them to roll away the stone that covered the tomb.

You know, maybe this was a statement, maybe this was a foreshadowing of the stone that would be rolled away in the near future on Easter morning.

Then once the stone was moved, Jesus, with all authority and in a loud voice commands: **"Lazarus, come out!"** He called him by name. You know, in those days tombs weren't always private. It's a good possibility that there could have been others in there too. Some believe that if Jesus had not specifically called Lazarus by name, the whole tomb would have emptied out!

But Jesus only calls for Lazarus…and Lazarus responds. He emerges from the tomb, freed from the prison of death, yet he stands there, wrapped from head to toe with grave clothes, he's still trapped and bound by things of this world.

Jesus says to the others, **"Take off the grave clothes and let him go!" Don't hold him back, because he is free.** And here, on All Saints Day, I believe, that may be His message to all of us too. Take off the grave clothes---your loved one is free---**and so are you!**

With that in mind…I have another scripture for this morning, Revelation chapter 21, these verses are actually a summary of the entire book of Revelation. It's short, so let me read it for you. It's an absolute message of hope and promise, and we can never have enough hope. Listen:

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

Along with the shortest verse in the from John's Gospel, let's also home in on a just short section of this passage from John's revelation. There's one line in this verse I want to highlight here on All Saints Day.

One line that sums up what this day is about. One line in which every human can find hope and fulfillment. One line in which we place our trust. Just a few words that every man, woman, and child can turn to when the losses of this life are more than we can bear.

One line when the woman stands, like Martha and Mary, weeping quietly beside the hospital bed of the man she has loved for more than sixty years, one line when a child, with their face twisted in grief, stands at the graveside of a mother or father killed in war, one line as the mother listens to the whimpering of her hungry babies, bellies empty, with no home to go to, and no hope left.

One line when the cell door has been slammed shut, the isolation begins, and the darkness begins swallowing the light. One line when the doors from the operating room swing open and the fearful words are spoken: "We did all we could." One line when you have screwed up your life so badly that now there's no one left to call for help. One line when you tried to do the right thing… but it all went wrong and someone got hurt anyway.

It is just one line; a few words, but a line that we simply could not live without. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes". Isaiah had spoken similar words much earlier to a people and a nation living in the despair of exile. At that time, they felt abandoned by their God, the people of Israel grieved the loss of their land, their home, their temple…they grieved the loss of their hope. In pain and sorrow they cried out to God to save them. Isaiah was sent to bring them a word of hope, a word of the redemption to come, a promise of a time when "the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces" (Isaiah 25:8).

Now John speaks a similar word of hope to people in his day and age, a people living under the persecution of a brutal man. Men, women, and children are all arrested. Torture and public executions are common. The cries of pain and grief of his people are once again raised to God. In a vision, John is told to write this message, the same message of Isaiah, "and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes."

SP

This world is harsh to us. Our nation is at war and families on both sides of the fighting grieve the loss of those they loved. Senseless violence is rampant, effecting the innocent children in our schools. Poverty, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse is epidemic in

our society. Over 40,000 children die of malnutrition in our world every day. Good men and women die by the hands of the lost, and cancer touches so many of those we know and love.

But…despite the worst that anything this world can throw at those who trust and obey Jesus, despite the pain that is raging among them and us, despite the grief that surrounds them and us, Despite the fear and anxiety that engulfs them and us, John, who was imprisoned…out on the island of Patmos as he writes this… delivers the word of hope to both them and us, "God will wipe away every tear from your eyes."

SP

On All Saints, we hear again this promise from God and we hear the call for us to be a sign of that promise to all generations. On this day of promise, we remember all those saints whom we have loved and who have now gone before us.

God created them in his own image and likeness, he claimed them as his own in the waters of baptism and in His time…he welcomed them to rest with him. It's in that promise of a new heaven and earth that we place our hope, the promise that in time, God will come to us and wipe away every tear from our eyes.

All Saints is a day of promise because it is a part of God's design for his creation. From the beginning, God has always come to his people in the time of their distress, reaching out his hand to wipe away their tears. Isaiah proclaimed it to the people of old. John proclaimed it from his exile on Patmos, and we proclaim it to the ends of the earth today, on this day of remembrance.

Grieve those who are gone but also rejoice. Do not despair and do not lose hope, for God will come to be with you and he will wipe away your tears. Live in hope of that which will come, a new heaven and new earth, for God's promises are true beyond any truth of this world.

The human side of Jesus weeps with us yet the divine side of Jesus promises that "There will be a time when death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for these first things have passed away and our God comes now to wipe away every tear from our eyes."

To God be the glory, Amen.

Invitation to the table

Friends, on this All Saints Day, we come to this Table remembering that we do not come alone. We come as part of a great family of faith…a family that stretches across generations. We remember those who taught us to pray, those who showed us what faithfulness looked like, those who sat beside us in worship, and those whose voices we can still hear even though their place beside us is now empty.

There may be some tears in our remembering today…and that is all right. Jesus wept too. But our tears are not without hope. We believe that death does not have the final word. We believe in the promise of resurrection. We believe that the same Jesus who called Lazarus from the tomb has opened the way to eternal life.

So come to this Table remembering the saints who have gone before us. Come thankful for the faith they shared. Come carrying whatever grief remains in your heart. And come trusting the promise that one day God will wipe away every tear, death will be no more, and all things will be made new.

This is Christ's Table, and Christ invites us to come.

Liturgy:

Holy and gracious God, we give you thanks today for the gift of life, for the gift of faith, and for all those faithful people who have walked this road before us. We remember the saints whose lives touched ours…the parents and grandparents, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, teachers and friends, pastors and ordinary faithful people who helped us know Jesus.

We thank you that their stories did not end at the grave. Through Jesus Christ you have given us a hope stronger than death and a promise greater than our grief. You have promised a day when mourning and crying and pain will be no more, when every tear will be wiped away, and when your children will dwell in your presence forever.

And so today we remember not only those who have gone before us; we remember Jesus Christ, who entered fully into our human story. He knew friendship. He knew sorrow. He stood beside a tomb and wept. But he also stood before that same tomb and called Lazarus by name. In Jesus we see both the God who weeps with us and the Savior who has authority even over death.

On the night before he gave himself for us, Jesus gathered with his disciples. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to them and said, “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said, “Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ, that through them we might once again experience your grace and be strengthened to live as faithful disciples.

As we receive these gifts, remind us that the Church is greater than what we can see in this room. We are joined with your people in every place and every generation. We give thanks for those saints who finished their race before us, and we pray that the faith they passed to us will continue through us to those who come after us.

Strengthen us until that promised day when death is no more, when the old things have passed away, when you make all things new, and when we gather in your presence with all your saints around your heavenly banquet.

Until that day, help us live with hope, love with courage, serve with joy, and trust completely in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.
Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to Offering

Today we remember people who left something behind for us. Perhaps it was their faith, their generosity, their compassion, their prayers, or simply the way they lived their lives for Christ. Their witness reminds us that what we do with the life God has given us matters.

Our offering is one way we continue that witness. What we give today becomes ministry tomorrow. It becomes a meal for someone who is hungry, a word of hope for someone who is struggling, an opportunity for a child to learn about Jesus, and a way for the Church to carry the Gospel into another generation.

So let us give with gratitude for those who came before us and with faithfulness toward those who will come after us.

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, today we have remembered. We have remembered lives that blessed us, voices we still miss, lessons we still carry, and people whose faith helped shape our own. Thank you for every saint who pointed us toward Jesus.

Now send us from this place to become that kind of witness for someone else. May our children and grandchildren, our neighbors and friends, and even people we have not yet met see something of Christ in the way we live.

We dedicate to you the gifts that have been given today. Take them and use them to bring hope where there is despair, comfort where there is grief, grace where there is brokenness, and the good news of Jesus wherever it needs to be heard.

And when the road before us becomes difficult, remind us that we are people of resurrection. We may grieve, but we do not grieve without hope. We may weep, but we trust the One who has promised to wipe every tear away. We may stand beside the grave, but we know that the grave does not get the final word.

Send us out, then, with grateful hearts, faithful lives, and our eyes fixed upon Jesus, until that day when all things are made new and we gather with all the saints in the presence of God.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.