

Children's Sermon
November 1, 2009
All Saints Day
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, North Andover, MA

**Who went out trick or treating last night? Did you get lots of candy?
What did you wear? Did anyone dress up as a mummy?**

**What if you really saw a mummy? Someone come back from the dead?
Would you be scared?**

Tell story of Lazarus rising from the grave. "The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

It sounds scary, but it wasn't... this was a good thing! It wasn't the walking undead, Lazarus was really made alive! He was brought back to full health. Everyone had been crying, they were so sad and then Jesus comes and brings joy. He brought Lazarus back to life! Everyone was happy! It sounds like the day described by the book of Revelation where it writes about a day when all death will be overcome. It says, "and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more." Jesus is proclaiming that day. He is saying "I am stronger than death."

Have you ever heard of All Saints Day? Do you know what a saint is? Saints aren't just special, holy people, saints are people whom God has made holy through baptism. They are people who are living and dead who follow Jesus, who are part of the Body of Christ.

Do you know any saints? (parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches). See the white hearts above us. Listen to the names we read at communion.

All Saints Day is when we remember that everyone who is baptized becomes holy before God. And when you live a good life with God, you need never fear death. Today we especially remember those who have died. Jesus has proved that he is stronger than death. He raised both Lazarus and himself. In baptism we are raised to a new life today. And one day, in the future, we will all be raised fully into the Kingdom of God. Amen.