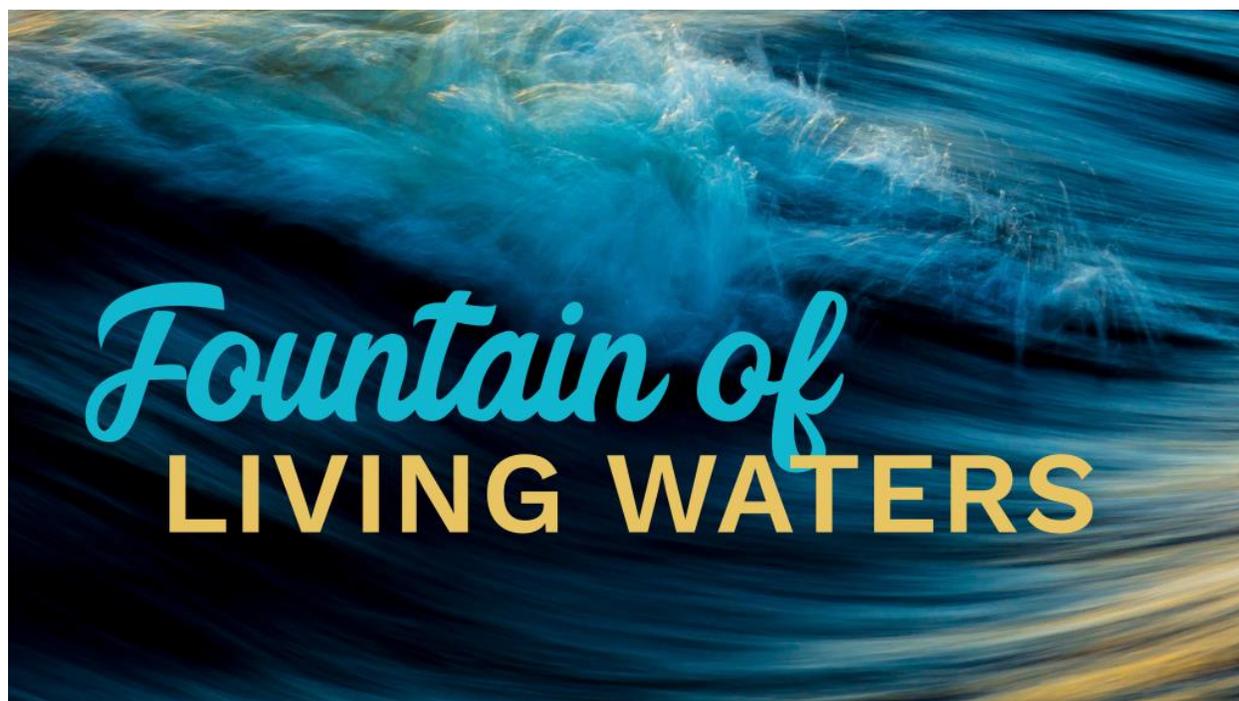


FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS

God calls Himself the fountain of spirit-nourishing water for thirsty souls. Jesus offers the water of life.

SCRIPTURE*	MUSIC†
Psalm 22:1-22 Jeremiah 2:11-13 Ezekiel 36:22-28 John 4:6-39 / 4:7-14 John 15:1-8 John 14:16-26 Ephesians 5:25-32 Revelation 22:14-21	As the Deer Be Thou My Vision Channels Only Come to the Water (Schrader) SATB Come, Lonely Heart Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy It Is Well with My Soul O God, You Are My God O God, You Are My God (Rasbach) SATB Satisfied Satisfied (Matsumura) SATB Taste and See that the Lord...(Larson) SATB The King of Love My Shepherd Is



* Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

ALL SAINTS DAY

John 4:14 | *All Saints Day (All Hallows Day) is a Catholic holiday to honor all those who have gone to heaven. Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday closely linked and remembers all those who have passed away. Humanity's greatest fear is death. Some of the ways we deal with fear is ignoring it, creating stories about it, or making fun of it. On the eve of All Saints Day and Day of the Dead, death is mocked. People fear death because they have no hope of eternal life. But because of the work of Jesus, we do have hope. He is an infinite source of life. He is a fountain of living water that "springs up into everlasting life."*

I'm sure you all know that tonight is Halloween. For many, Halloween is just a fun time for kids to dress up like superheroes and eat too much candy. But historically, this holiday tells the story of how various cultures coped with death.

It began with early church celebrations held to honor the martyrs. As time passed, these celebrations expanded to honor all the departed saints. In the 11th Century, the Catholic Church added "All Saints Day" to its official calendar. It later included All Soul's Day, which is devoted to praying for people in purgatory. "Halloween" is just a contraction of "All Hallows' Eve," or, "the night before All Saints Day."

But there's more to the story. Because as Catholicism spread, it practiced syncretism, meaning that it adopted elements of the pagan cultures it encountered and mixed them with Catholic teaching. So in the British Isles, All Saints Day mixed with Samhain, a feast named for the Celtic lord of the dead. Supposedly, on October 31st, Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to return to earth, and things like witches and goblins came out to harm people. Because of this, many dark rituals were developed to fend off evil spirits on that particular night.

In Mexico, ancient Aztec traditions mixed with All Saints Day and later became Día de Muertos, or "the Day of the Dead," a day on which it is believed that the dead come back to visit their homes and on which death is mocked.

Here's the bottom line: although death fascinates people at times, it has always been our worst enemy. Halloween is a testimony to how people in various cultures throughout human history have coped with the fear of death that holds unbelievers in bondage (see Heb 2:15).

But here's the good news: Jesus died and rose to destroy death. In the "Day of the Dead," death is mocked. But the greatest mockery of death that has ever been written was penned by the apostle Paul.

“O Death, where is your sting?

O grave, where is your victory?”

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:55-57).

Today, while people around the world focus on death, we worship the Fountain of Living Waters—the God who gives life. **(Pastor Kris Schaal)**

Promotional Post was not specific to this theme, since beginning to address cultural-moral responses to Halloween and Day of the Dead are sensitive issues better dealt with less publically, and in person.

“RAW WATER”

Connect this theme to someone whose job is working with water purification. In the book of Jeremiah, God calls Himself "the fountain of living waters." In Bible times, many people would use water that was collected in a cistern. This source of water could at times be dirty or contaminated because it was still. It was certainly inferior to a spring or fountain, which would be a source of "living" (moving, fresh) water. God said that His people had committed two evils. They had forsaken Him, the fountain of living water. And they had made cisterns for themselves that were not even remotely equal to what God offered—in fact, they could not even hold the stagnant water. While the things we tend to run after will not satisfy us, God is ultimately satisfying. Like living water, He is the source of dependable, pure refreshment for our souls. He is enough.

Promotional Post: [Social media post]

Have you heard about the “raw water” trend? Recently, some companies made news by selling untreated water collected directly from springs. Those who buy it do so largely because this raw water may contain extra minerals that our tap water doesn’t have. But what makes this story seem a little odd is the fact that we as Americans don’t have a true need for raw water from a spring. We have the privilege of enjoying clean, flowing, drinkable tap water while people in many other countries don’t have that same privilege. Why would anyone not take advantage of pure water at his fingertips? In fact, pure water is so valuable that people throughout history have gone to great lengths to find and collect safe, usable water.

In Bible times, water was often collected in large cisterns, which were essentially holes dug into the ground and lined with stones. The water from rain or other sources would sit in the cistern, where people would come to get water for their needs. As you can imagine, though, the water could easily become dirty or contaminated, and because the water was still, non-moving water, it would be difficult to purify. A much-preferred source of water would have been a moving, or “living” water supply, like a spring or a fountain. People who had access to a fountain of water could collect fresh, moving, pure water and use it without fear of sickness.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God uses the illustration of water sources to describe two evils that His people had committed. They had forsaken Him, the fountain of living water. And they had made cisterns for themselves that were not even remotely equal to what God offered – in fact, they weren't useful at all because they were broken and could not hold any water. We, too, are often tempted to chase after things that will not satisfy us. But God is ultimately satisfying. We must listen to His voice imploring us to come and find what we need in Him – resources, rest, and strength. Like living water, He is the source of dependable, pure refreshment for our souls. He is enough! (Amy Tilson)

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

This reading for a woman contains “quotes” of the Samaritan woman’s thoughts; interpret dramatically.

Promotional Post: [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

The Bible gives us several stories that happen at wells; but one of the most memorable is the conversation Jesus initiates with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s Well. She comes in the heat of the day—not the usual time for women to fill their water vessels. Perhaps she chose this time of day for her chore to avoid the stares and whispering gossip of the other women of Sychar. As she approaches the well, to her surprise, a stranger sitting there asks her for a drink. The Scriptures give us insight into what she must have been thinking.

“Is this *man*, a Jew, really asking *me*, a woman and a Samaritan, for a drink?”

Jesus answers her with far more than she must have expected. He replies that if she understood Who He was, she would have asked Him for—and received—“living,” or flowing, water. And that water would spring up within her into eternal life.

“This sounds too good to be true. But if He’s offering it... ‘Yes, please, give me this water! I’ll never need to come to this well again; I’ll never be thirsty again!’”

What Jesus says next seems like an abrupt change of subject. He asks her to call her husband.

“How could He possibly know the truth? In any case, I have no husband *right now*. I’ll tell him that much...”

Of course, Jesus knew the truth: that not only had she had five different husbands, but also that she was living with a man to whom she was not married. His words echo the prophet Jeremiah’s declaration, that God’s people “[had] committed two evils”: they forsook Him, the Fountain of Flowing Waters, and sought satisfaction from stagnant pools in broken cisterns soon to dry up. Jesus is questioning the woman at the well about *this same sin*—of seeking satisfaction, apparently, in one after another romantic relationships. She thinks they will satisfy her. But time after time, the cisterns dry up; so she has to go dig another one. Jesus calls her back to a source, the Source, of flowing water that satisfies. He alone possesses and offers this water.

Like the Samaritan woman, we stand before the Fountain of Living Waters and realize our own emptiness. Jesus’ gaze will expose us every time we turn from Him to seek satisfaction in empty pursuits. Yet in love He still calls us to turn back to Him and drink freely of the water that He offers—complete satisfaction, both now and for eternity. (Amy Tilson)