Synod 2026.

The readings are from All Saints' Day: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17; Matthew 5:1-12 or Isaiah 25:1-8.
Fallen condition Focus: Sometimes we wonder if we will ever stop crying.
Propositional Phrase:
Because it is hard to see through our tears, God promises to wipe them away, personally.

My text is: Revelation chapter 7 verse 17b
"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight O Lord our strength and our redeemer, amen.

Have you ever wondered, why do we need to cry?
Or perhaps, more importantly,
Have you ever wished that your crying would come to an end?

Life seems to be full of tears, doesn't it?
Tears are one the great equalizers of humanity.

Our loved ones seem to be taken away from us, too soon, don't they?
And some times people hurt us
and sometimes we can't even figure out why.
We are often forced to go places we never wanted to visit.
Maybe a hospital bed or a nursing home
Even on Remembrance Day we are often moved to tears,
Just thinking about all those young boys that never came home again.

Some times we have seasons in our life, when tears are so plentiful,
we wonder if we will ever stop crying.

Our text today, offers the children of God, a view into the future, that we need to see.
We need to know that God sees our tears.
We need to know that that our tears are on the agenda,
they will be dealt with.
We need to know that God is not standing by unaware or unconcerned.
So, God addresses your tears, directly.
And as a loving Father, when He sees His child in pain.
He doesn't just remove His child from harm's way,
He will also gently wipes away the tears, from your eyes.

Beloved,
Because it is hard to see through your tears, God promises to wipe them away, personally.

Our text is found in the book of Revelation.
Now the Book of Revelation seems to have a reputation, for being difficult, to understand.
And I think that fact, reflects the reality of life.
Life can be very messy, and there are times when we just don't understand it.
But God has also given us special beacons of hope, in Revelation.

And these beacons are crystal clear.
God knows we need them.
The most important information in the book of Revelation, is accessible.
Our Father in heaven, does not put the bread "out of the reach" of His children.
And our text comes to us, from one of those accessible passages in Revelation.

In chapter 7 staring at verse 9,
we are suddenly swept up into heaven
and we are given a view of the activity that will take place there.
And we are told, that there will be beautiful worship in heaven
Worship without limits, all the things that seem to divide us, are gone.
Pure worship, beyond our dreams, perfect unity, perfect harmony
And it is worship that centres on Jesus, the Lamb of God.
Starting in verse 9 it is written:
...behold, a great multitude which no one could number,
of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb,
clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
and crying out with a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures,
and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,
WOW!

And as we are invited to catch a glimpse, of how glorious and wonderful it will be,
we are told that one of the elders asks John a question.
And it is a question that is intended to help us, to benefit more fully from what we are seeing,
And as we begin to hear the answer, we start to understand, that God is reaching out to us.

Listen to this starting in verse 13
Then one of the elders answered, saying to me,
"Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"
And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation,
and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

You see, God is reaching out to us, He wants you to picture yourself,
Leaving behind "the great tribulation" of life, here on earth
and now, Standing there in heaven, wearing spotless white robes,
that were washed in the blood of the Lamb.
God is reaching out to you,
Will you be there? You can be... Anyone can be...
You only need the blood of Jesus, that is true worship beloved.
It has nothing to do with us, it is all about Him.

God knows that pure worship is hard to imagine on this side of heaven.
Where our bodies and our minds just don't seem to cooperate.
Where the devil is always busy trying to distract us and to hurt us.

And where fighting and killing is a daily reality,
our cities, our countries, our world, is more violent everyday it seems.
And there is always fresh pain to occupy our minds.

It's like God knows that our vision is blurry, from our tears.
The pain we experience is real.
And the tears, they just make it hard for us to see.

Here we are, trying to look forward, in the book of Revelation
Trying to take it all in,
but we unable because of our tears.
Like when a sick person feels that, even good food seems unattractive some how.

So God in His love, comes to our rescue.
God rescues us by showing us, the rest of the picture.
Revelation shows us a picture of Jesus Himself, living with us and protecting us and caring for us.
Revelation shows us a picture of Jesus Himself, guiding us and walking with us and providing for us.
Starting in verse 15 we see,
"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 dwell among them.
They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;
for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them
and lead them to living fountains of waters."

The heat of our tribulation is gone, forever.
The longing and hunger and thirsting to be in the presence of Jesus, is a thing of the past.
Because Jesus Himself is leading us to living fountains of waters.
And beloved, because there are times, when all we can see is our tears.
God promises, that He will wipe away every tear, personally.
Our text says: And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

I don't know about you, but when I think about it, I just want to start right now.
When I feel the Love and compassion of our text.
God didn't have to say that.
He didn't need to do anything more than He has already done.
He already sent His only Son to die in our place, as our substitute.
The death, that we deserve.
He poured out the full cup of His wrath, on His only Beloved Son.
Nothing more was necessary, frankly, nothing more can be done, "It is finished!"
But God sees you in the middle of your tribulation
and He comes after you like a Shepherd for a lost and hurting sheep.
Thank you Jesus!

When I think about it, it makes me want to worship right now, and verse 12 couldn't say it any better:
"Blessing and glory and wisdom,
and thanksgiving and honour and power and might
be unto our God forever and ever. Amen."