

## Remembrance of the Dead? Facing death we celebrate hope!

Death is part of life. That is easily said. But it is a hard truth: Nothing is surer than death. I will die. You will die. People whom I have loved are already dead.

Death means a final farewell. To grandparents, parents, friends. To old ones, people of my age, young children. And we are left behind and grieve. We miss them so much! We do not know how to continue without them. The end. It's over.

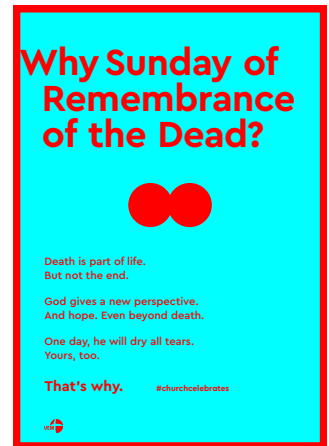
Not so, the Bible tells us. Death's future death has already been announced. Jesus was dead and is risen. And that is only the beginning. God is stronger than death. One day he will destroy death completely. We are all promised a resurrection. Our death is not final. We will see each other again.

A world will come in which our tears are wiped away. There will be life once more. Renewed, much better and more beautiful than we can ever imagine today. Not somewhere behind the clouds, but on this renewed earth. Without suffering, without crying. Without war and without hate. With enough good food for all. With enjoyment of the fruits of our labors. With love and laughter. A new beginning. And what was good in this life will be found there as well.

That is what we believe. That is what we hope. Because God has promised. This is why we celebrate the remembrance of the dead. We claim against the obvious: The dead are in God's hand. He will give them new life. And new life to me and you, too.

That is why we celebrate the remembrance of the dead. And we invite you to celebrate with us.

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