

**Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Called by God's love...inviting, nurturing, growing, serving*  
The Rev. Larry Closter, Pastor

**Christ The King**  
**November 22, 2020**

*please stand*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**R Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**R Holy One,**  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin**  
**that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

**P** Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.

**R Amen.**

**P** Pastor  
**R** Cong. Representative  
**A** Assisting Minister  
**L** Lay Reader

# GATHERING SONG

## Oh, Worship the King

1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,  
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,

Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;  
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,  
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.  
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.  
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

## **GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R** And also with you.

## **KYRIE**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**R** Amen.

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**R** This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**R** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**R** Amen.

*please sit*

## **WORD**

**First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

**L** A reading from Ezekiel

11Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the

land. 14I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a**

1Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**2Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

3For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**4In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

5The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**6Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

7a For the LORD is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

L A reading from Ephesians

15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L The Word of the Lord.

**R Thanks be to God.**

*please stand*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**R Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**R Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing,

I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ 45Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**R** Praise to you, O Christ.

*please sit*

**SERMON**

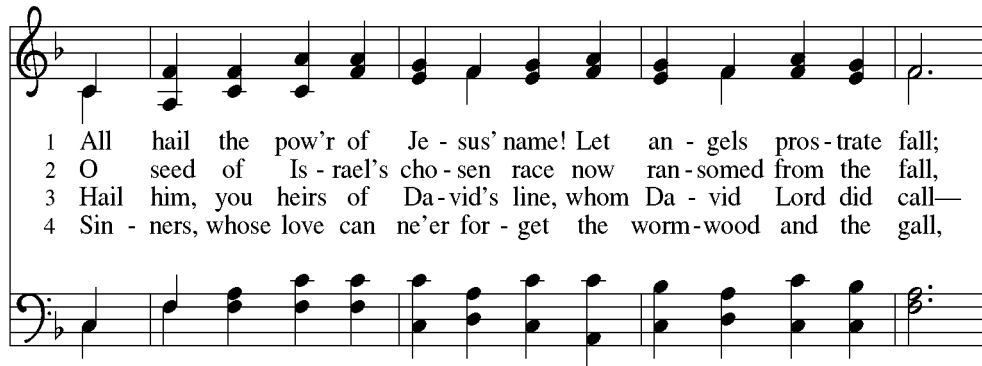
**Servant King**

Pastor Kenneth Price

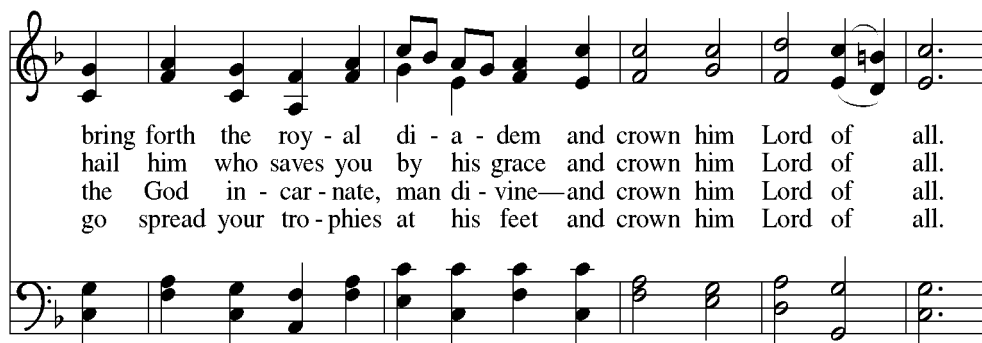
please refer to attachment “*Sermon for November 22<sup>nd</sup>*”

# HYMN OF THE DAY

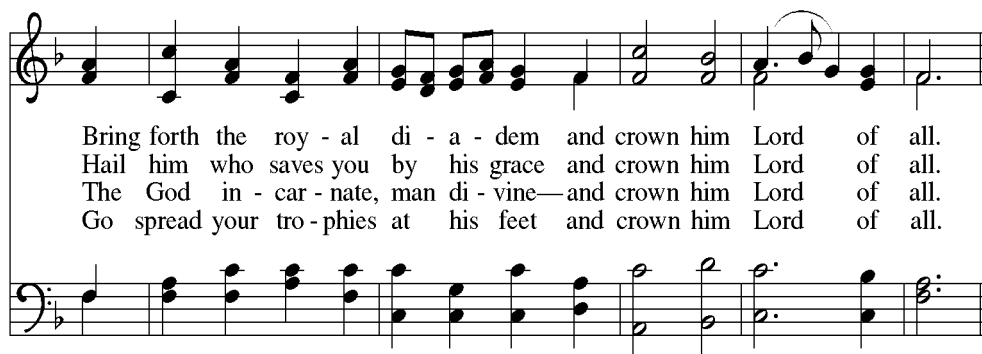
## All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe  
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5–6  
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844



**P** God has made us his children through our baptism into Christ. Living in trust and hope, together we confess our faith.

**A** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A** Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God.

**R Your mercy is great.**

**A** You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

**R Your mercy is great.**

**A** Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**R Your mercy is great.**

**A** Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Hear us, O God.

**R Your mercy is great.**

**A** Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God.

**R Your mercy is great.**

**A** For whom else and what else do we pray...

Hear us, O God.

**R Your mercy is great.**

**A** Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God.

**R Your mercy is great.**

**P** Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**R Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R** And also with you.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

**R** Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.  
God of all goodness,  
generations have turned to you,  
gathered around your table,  
and shared your abundant blessings.  
Number us among them  
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,  
and give thanks for your rich blessings,  
we may feast upon your very self  
and care for all that you have made,  
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**R Amen.**

*please stand*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**R** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**R** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **SANCTUS**

**R** Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**R Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**R** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
All baptized persons, at Christ's invitation are invited to the Lord's Supper.  
As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:  
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
The communicant may make the sign of the cross

**P** And now may the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**R Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P** Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.

**R Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**P** May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

**R Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P** Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**R Thanks be to God.**

I have entitled this sermon Servant King. This may sound odd that a king is a servant. Most of the time we think of a king as a person who has servants. However, the Gospels change the way that Earth thinks and tells us about how Heaven thinks.

Today is Christ the King Sunday however we are going to talk more about how our King Jesus Christ is a servant. My assumption is that most of us know that a king does not serve but is served. A king lives in a palace and has people to wait on him. He enjoys the comfort of being a royal person with all of its benefits and enjoyment. People react to his immediate commands and try to please him to the best of their ability.

However our King, Jesus, is much different than one who lives in a Royal Palace. Jesus was not born in a palace but in a stable amidst roaring animals. His parents were very simple people being a carpenter by trade. His mother was simply a young woman called by God to bring the king of the world into the environment of the world. Both Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to register in order that they could be known in the census that was being taken at that time. Mary was very pregnant and the only place they could find to give birth was in a stable. Oddly enough the king of the whole world, no the whole universe, was born in a stable!

This was only the beginning of his servant hood.

Paul the Apostle, said in Philippians that Jesus emptied himself taking on the form of a being born in human likeness and being found in human likeness he humbled himself.

The next step of his servant Hood was even more drastic.

It involved him who had no sin to become sinful. It involved the simple act of being baptized by John the Baptist. John was baptizing in the river of Jordan for the repentance of sin. Why would Jesus be baptized if he was the son of God and had no sin?

Think of it this way.

The water of the River Jordan was full of sin because simple people dumped their sins in the water. When Jesus went into the water, the sin of the Sinners covered him and therefore he then became sinful. It was not that he had sin but others had sin and Jesus took their sins upon himself.

The result of sin is death and we know the story of Good Friday how Christ was hung on a cross.

His baptism gives us the clue as to how humbled the servant King has become for us.

Romans 6 Paul teaches us that as Christ died, we who are baptized in him will surely rise even as Jesus is risen from the dead.

Now that Jesus has taken on the sin of the world the next step is to find out will he really be a servant or will he revert to being a king.

The devil knows that Jesus is a king but now that Jesus has taken sin upon himself the devil thinks that he might have a chance to defeat the king of the whole world. After his baptism Jesus went into the Wilderness and we are told that he fasted for 40 days. The devil sees this as an opportunity and challenges Jesus that if he really is a king, the Son of God, he could turn stones into bread, but Jesus rejected the temptation and told Satan that one does not live by bread alone.

Next Satan took Jesus on the Pinnacle of the temple and challenged him to throw himself down knowing that the angels will take charge of him, but Jesus commented that one should not tempt the Lord God.

Finally, all Jesus would have to do would be to bow down to Satan, and Satan would give him all the kingdoms of the world. However, Jesus already had all the kingdoms of the world and told Satan that one should serve the Lord God only.

Our reference here is the gospel of Matthew.

Jesus's Ministry demonstrated that he was willing to work with the lower class of people rather than royalty. He selected a motley group of men to follow him, none of whom the royalty would even take notice of.

As a guest at a wedding he took the role of a servant and turned water into wine. He broke the tradition of the Jews by talking to a Samaritan woman at a well. He ate with Zachues, a tax collector, in his home despite the objections of the righteous Pharisees. When no one would have anything to do with outcast lepers. but Jesus healed 10 of them. He called little children unto himself when even his disciples wanted to put them aside. He told stories about lost sheep lost coins and even a lost son.

Jesus defined his ministry as one who called Sinners unto himself.

An important event to demonstrate that Jesus the king is also the servant, happened at the Last Supper.

In those days people wore sandals and It is not comfortable to sit around a table with gritty feet. At a special meal a servant is usually present to wash the guest feet. Before the



meal Jesus astonished his disciples by taking a towel and a bowl of water and washing the feet of his followers.

Jesus became the servant of his own disciples. Jesus set the example that even the teacher or the master and even the king should be a servant to his people.

Have you gotten the message that the role and lifestyle of a Christian is to be a servant?

Gospel lesson for today drives that theory home.

Jesus tells about a person who is thirsty and no one gives him drink, a stranger and no one welcomes, a naked person and no one gives him clothing, a sick and in prison person that no one visits. When no one as a Christian pays attention to these lowly people they also ignore the master the King, Jesus the Christ.

The final episode of Jesus' servant-hood is when he is nailed to a cross and hung up to die. Even on the cross he cries out as a servant father to forgive them for they know not what they do.

Back to Philippians, again it reads he humbled himself and became obedient unto the point of death, even death on a cross.

Where does all of this lead?

I suspect that it leads us still to honor the king more than we remember the servant.

Thomas a Kempis wrote Jesus had many lovers of his kingdom but few bearers of the cross. All are disposed to rejoice with him, but few to suffer for his sake. Many followed him to the breaking of the bread, but few to the drinking of the bitter cup.

We sing, "O Worship the King", and we build magnificent buildings to worship Him, but we ignore those humble about us that are unable to make their own way in this world.

We sing, "All hail the Power of Jesus's Name", but we often fail to offer the simple word of comfort and hope to someone in need much less do something for them to relieve their situation.

We sing, "Rejoice for Christ is King", but we take pride in our own well being and fail to share even a mite with the poor.

We sing, "Crown Him With Many Crowns", but we take off the crowns of those we don't like, like those who may be different from us because of race, color, or politics, religion, lifestyles and so forth.

We sing, "At the Hand of Jesus", but we fail to get our hands dirty as Jesus would do washing the feet of his disciples.

Don't get me wrong, we do crown Jesus with many things that we do to help our neighbors and our friends and those in need. The problem is that we are more concerned about ourselves than we are of others. Remember Jesus said love your neighbor as yourself.

Let's just think about some ways we have and can crown Jesus as king of all that exist. We can and have given our money to help those in need through the church and other charitable organizations. We can and have sponsored food pantries and other ways of feeding people in our community and even in other places. Mission trips have been helpful for those who have been caught in tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, and floods. We have made masks to keep down the spread of covid-19. The church has pastors and counselors on hand to share the good news and offer hope and in time of calamity. Our church buildings can be used for more than just worship, and therefore, we can have community activities in our building such as Alcoholic Anonymous and other such organizations that give comfort and hope to people in need.

Let me conclude by giving a real example of how one church that I was involved with demonstrated that we can get our hands dirty to pray on Jesus with a crown of thorns that gives glory and life to those in need. Paul was someone that people said was "not exactly right", developed cancer. He wanted to go home but the social agent said that he could not go home unless his house was cleaned out. She had been in his house and saw that it not only smelt, but was crowded with junk and so dirty so she denied him the right to go home. However our church took up for Paul and said that he could go home if we cleaned up his house. It was a job; we hauled several truckloads of papers and magazines and trash and garbage to the dump. We swept and mopped and cleaned and fixed plumbing that was broken. We washed his clothes and put them in a nice order. We put new sheets and bedding on his bed so that he would feel clean and comfortable. When we brought Paul home he was so appreciative and thankful that he could be home and thanked us over and over for making it available for him to have his house clean. One thing that I remember particularly about the event was what the social worker said to us after Paul was settled in his house. She said that this is what the church should be about, She confessed that she was not a Christian but that if more Christians did what we did she would certainly be interested in becoming a part of the church.

Another song we used to sing was "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love By Our Love".

**Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**November 22, 2020**

**Our Prayers:**

**For the good of the church:** Our bishops, Elizabeth and Robert, and all pastors.

**For those serving on military active duty:** Chapman Toman and Alex Rankin

**For our healthcare and safety members and friends:** Leslie Adkins, Andy Bunch, Jennifer Cline, Rebecca Coffin, Alex & Nathan Hall, Courtney Johnson, Frances & John Knott, Kegan Knott, Naomi Knott, Dr. Timothy Landes, Amy Moyers, Casey Parady, Karen Quick, Lisa Rankin, Thomas Ratcliff, Beth Sheets, Susan St Clair, Kimberley Toman, Forester Wright, Hunter Wright, Dustin Wright, Dean Zullig, and others.

**For healing and recovery:** Linda Zullig, Bill Braithwaite, Betty Cox, Gladys Fockler, Kenneth Landes, Fred Cox and Gottfried Pikel

**For our friends and neighbors:** **Rette Cline**, friend of Rosemary Spell; **Helen Berry**, sister of Hunter Fauber; **Emily Simmons**, grandmother of Laurel and Zane Simmons; **Jerry Byrd**, friend of Robyn Dean; **Ella Peters**, friend of Laurel Simmons; **Andrew Moyers**, brother of Dale Moyers; **Scott**, nephew of Mandy Lilly; **Dottie Hall**, sister of Jim Sheets; **Virginia Roudabush**, mother of Gary Roudabush; **Andreas Pikel**, son of Gottfried Pikel; **Virginia Synod staff member** with COVID-19 and others exposed to the virus; **Michael Adkins**, grandson of Jimmy and Carolyn Cox

**Church Leadership Contact information**

Interim Pastor: Larry Closter: 540-848-5325 [larry.closter@gmail.com](mailto:larry.closter@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Karen Fauber 290-1999

Council President: Rosemary Spell 248-1450

Council Vice President: Carol Troxell 294-1559

Council Secretary: Mary Garber 480-0444

Committee Representatives:

Education: Rosemary Spell 248-1450

Evangelism: Mary Garber 480-0444

Finance and Stewardship: Burke Simmons 292-8674

Hospitality and Social Ministry: Joy Landes 280-9019; Carol Troxell 294-1559

Property: John Knott 430-3005; Forester Wright 337-6408

Worship and Music: Gary Flavin 885-8479; Linda Page 885-0539

Youth and Recreation: Rosemary Spell 248-1450

**Altar Flowers:** Would you like to provide altar flowers in 2021? Please contact Mary Garber at 540-480-0444 or [imlgmdza@gmail.com](mailto:imlgmdza@gmail.com).

## **Notice of Suspension of in-person worship at Pleasant View Lutheran Church; Suspension approved by Council on November 15 (see message below from Pastor Larry that was emailed on Sunday, November 15)**

As you are very much aware we are a small congregation. Usually there are less than 50 people attending our Sunday worship services. Even so, Rosemary Spell tested positive for COVID a few months ago and more recently Larry Landes also tested positive. Fortunately Larry's symptoms have been very mild. His wife, Joy, was also exposed but tested negative and has self-quarantined. In addition a number of other members of our church have been exposed to the COVID virus in the past few months. They have all done the right thing by self-quarantined until the threat of transmission passed. As a church we are doing our best to prevent our members from being exposed to the virus. I want to be clear that none of these exposures have happened in the church. Nevertheless my point is...that as small as our church is...several members have been adversely affected by the virus.

This past Friday (Nov. 13th) our governor, noting the increase in Coronavirus cases in every region of Virginia, issued a statement restricting social gatherings to no more than 25 persons. Five hours later he amended his statement to exempt churches provided they adhere to all other guidelines.

Then yesterday (Saturday, Nov. 14th) the bishop of the Virginia Synod, Bishop Bob Humphrey, issued his guidance strongly recommending that all Lutheran Churches under his jurisdiction immediately stop in-person worship and other in-person church related gatherings.

In response to these directives, I and the church council, have decided that it is in the best interest of our congregation not to have in-person worship during the next two weeks while I am on vacation (i.e. the Sunday of Nov. 22 and 29). During those two weeks we will determine if it is safe to resume in-person worship and if so what, if any, further restrictions are necessary.

The sole reason for this decision is for the protection of your physical health. Personally I wholeheartedly agree with our bishop's recommendation. From a scientific perspective there is every indication that with the upcoming holidays this virus is going to get much worse before it gets better. Suspending in-person worship for a limited time is one small way we can contribute to minimizing the spread of the virus at this time.

I think it is only right that I point out to you that I am an interim pastor here. That means that I have been called by the Virginia Synod to serve you until you as a congregation issue a call to a candidate and he/she agrees to be your pastor. For this reason the bishop's recommendation carries additional weight for me.

The church is not closing, we are here to meet your spiritual needs. It is only in-person worship that is being temporarily suspended. During these next two week and any time thereafter we will continue to email or mail the Sunday bulletin, announcements, newsletters, etc. just as we had during the Spring and Summer when in-person worship was suspended.

We are all tired of this pandemic but we must do whatever is necessary to inhibit its spread. I thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your prayers. I am confident that with God's help we will get past this stressful and uncertain time.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Pastor Larry

**November 16-December 1:** Pastor Larry is on a well-deserved vacation.

**November 21 at 10 a.m.:** Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will host a "virtual" Thankoffering Service, "Light the Way for Justice, Light the Way for Love." Sign into <http://vswowebly.com> to register. The program will be via Zoom application.

**November 22: Pastor Price was scheduled to preside over our worship service; however, due to the suspension he has graciously provided a transcript of the sermon he prepared for "Christ the King" Sunday. (see attachment)**

### **November 22: Christ the King**

**Sunday** is a relatively recent addition to the Western liturgical calendar, having been instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI for the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. Most major Protestant and Anglican groups, including Lutherans, observe this holiday on the final Sunday of their liturgical years. Source: wiki

**What does it mean to follow a king who does not look like a king or act like a king?**



**November 26: Thanksgiving** George Washington names November 26 as a day of national thanksgiving for the ratification of the Constitution. On the same date in 1863, Abraham Lincoln designates the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

**Make a list of 26 blessings. What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?**



**November 29:** Thanksgiving and Thankoffering Program; First Sunday in Advent – Sermon from Virginia Synod pastor and PVELC worship bulletin will be emailed. Copies will also be available in the bin outside the Parish Hall building (near the cemetery wall).

**December 2, 9, and 16** – Wednesday Advent Vespers Services are cancelled.

**Thursday, December 3: Council Meeting (conference call) @ 6:30 p.m.:** The Church Council has ongoing issues that must be addressed to ensure the appropriate planning for in-person worship services, overseeing the operations of our Church, and discussing transition issues for the 2021 Council. Newly elected Council members should also attend: Robyn Dean, Debbie Hastert, and Rebecca Perrin. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Council's consideration, please submit them to Rosemary Spell (preferably in writing) no later than December 1. Email to [rlspell528@gmail.com](mailto:rlspell528@gmail.com).

**Change for Hope (“Red Bucket”)** The following requests have been approved by the Council. If you have an Outreach request, please submit it to Mary Garber via email. Change for Hope contributions may be mailed to PVELC, P.O. Box 346, Verona, VA 24482.

- **Sunday, November 29: Shenandoah Valley Social Services – Christmas Wish List Project.** The request is for gift cards or monetary donations that will be used to shop for gifts for children who will be in foster care at Christmas. Preferred gift cards include Walmart, Target, and Visa. Monetary donations collected by PVELC will be combined and a check mailed to SVSS. If you wish to provide a gift card, please contact Becci Page. Deadline: **December 1.**
- **Sunday, December 6: Valley Mission -- Christmas Wish Lists.** The Valley Mission requests help in providing a bountiful Christmas to homeless individuals of all ages. Their Case Management team requests either monetary contributions or gift cards (Walmart preferred) so that they may shop for specific items and sizes that are most needed by those in their care. Monetary donations collected by PVELC will be combined and a check delivered to Valley Mission. If you wish to provide a gift card, please contact Becci Page. Deadline: **December 6.**

**PVELC Contributions:** Please mail your contributions (or correspondence) to: **PVELC, P.O. Box 346, Verona, VA 24482.** If you wish a contribution designated to a special fund (e.g., Poinsettias project) or Change for Hope request, please make a note in the memo section of your check or include a note along with the contribution.

**2021 Time and Talent (due December 6):**

Please complete the “You Can Count on Me” form indicating your commitments to PVELC worship services, committees, and ongoing initiatives.

**Please return the form to Steve Dickerson.**



**Poinsettias Project (due December 6):** Rather than purchasing poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas Season, please consider a donation to one of several PVELC initiatives. A listing of the donations and their corresponding memorials or honorariums will be distributed in mid-December announcements (amount excluded). Suggested initiatives are Outreach, General Fund, Building Fund, HVAC Fund, or Memorial Fund. **Please return the form and associated check to PVELC or contact Becci Page.**



**Verona Community Food Pantry:** The VCFP needs plastic bags; however, they no longer accept egg cartons. Contact: Goldie Shiflett

### **In Memoriam**

**Truxell:** Condolences to the Truxell family on the loss of their mother, Frances Link Truxell. Mrs. Truxell died on November 15. She was preceded in death by a brother and five sisters. Her parents, Walter and Ella Link, and family were active members of PVELC. She was an aunt to Donnie Campbell. Please keep the extended Truxell and Link families in your prayers.

### **Faith Formation at Home (Online Worship Opportunities)**

**Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church:** search Facebook posts  
<http://www.pvelc.org/>  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/PleasantViewEvangelicalLutheranChurch/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/PleasantViewEvangelicalLutheranChurch/posts/?ref=page_internal)

**Virginia Synod:** [vasynod.org/resources/pulpit-supply](http://vasynod.org/resources/pulpit-supply)  
November 15: Gospel Reading & Sermon by The Rev. Sonya Williams-Giersch for 24a  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5pAT8UwAO8&feature=youtu.be>

**NOTE:** Narrative Lectionary series based on Bible Stories (used by Muhlenberg Lutheran and Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church): "God Calls Isaiah"

**Muhlenberg Lutheran Church,** Harrisonburg; Pastors Lauren Eanes and Alex Zuber  
November 15: 24th Sunday after Pentecost (or digital streaming at 11 a.m.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqthSJAu3D8> (worship service)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkh9JUSbOiA> (sermon only)

**Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church,** Mount Sidney; Pastor Derek Boggs  
November 15: 24th Sunday after Pentecost  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_bX-Wv5HUU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_bX-Wv5HUU&feature=youtu.be)

**December:** All “in-person” worship services and activities for December will be discussed by Pastor Larry and the Council on December 3. Sunday Gospel and Midweek Reflections will be sent via email). The following are listed as “to be determined (TBD).”



December 6 – Worship Service (TBD)

December 13 – Combined Worship Service and Christmas Program (TBD)

December 20 – Installation of new Council Members (TBD)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service (TBD)

December 27 – Worship Service w/extra music (TBD)



## “Poinsettia” Donation Order Form 2020

**Poinsettias: Rather than purchasing poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas Season, please consider a donation to one of several PVELC initiatives.** A listing of the donors and their corresponding memorials or honorariums will be printed in the bulletin (amount excluded). Suggested initiatives are Outreach, General Fund, Building Fund, HVAC Fund, or Memorial Fund. **NOTE:** We will not be ordering live poinsettias in 2020.



I wish to order a “memorial” poinsettia(s) during the Advent and Christmas Season. Please make your check payable to PVELC and complete the information below. Also, please note on the check memo line: Poinsettia and Name of the designated fund (e.g., Poinsettia/Outreach or Poinsettia/HVAC. You may designate more than one fund.

Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested initiatives (amount may be split among various initiatives):

Outreach: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; General Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Building Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_

HVAC Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Memorial Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested initiatives (amount may be split among various initiatives):

Outreach: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; General Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Building Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_

HVAC Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Memorial Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total amount remitted: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please write clearly as the names will be printed in the bulletin.

You may either place your check and this form in the special “poinsettia” basket upon entry into the Sanctuary or you may mail them to PVELC, P.O. Box 346, Verona, VA 24482. **The deadline for contributions is Sunday, December 6, 2020.**



***Nurturing Faith...***  
*Every Day in Every Way*

November 22, 2020

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
 Psalm 95:1-7a  
 Ephesians 1:15-23  
 Matthew 25:31-46

***Christ the King Sunday***

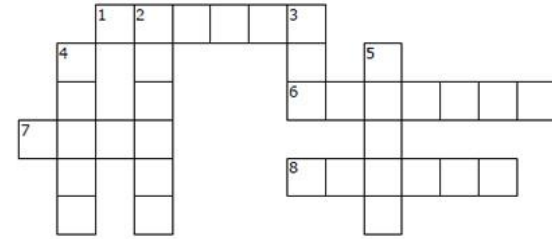
Helloooo friends! Today is the last day of our church year. If we were or are gathering in our church buildings, we would notice something different in our sanctuaries. The long green season of the time after Pentecost has passed and today, we would be using white for our primary color. We are getting ready to move into our Advent season, the season before Christmas but first, we have today to celebrate someone very special, Christ, our King. Who do you know that wears a crown? A king or queen wears a crown. Being a king is different from being the president of a country. A president is elected by the people, but a king is not elected, he is born to be king. King is a title that is passed on in the royal family to the first-born son.

Have you seen the movie "Lion King?" As a lion, Simba was born to be the "King of the Beasts." In one scene from the movie Simba sings, "I Just Can't Wait to Be King." If you have seen the movie, you will remember that one reason why Simba was so anxious to become king was that he didn't want anyone telling him what to do. He didn't want to hear anyone saying, "do this" or "stop that." He wanted to be free to run around all day doing everything his way. It wasn't just that Simba didn't want anyone to tell him what to do, he was also looking forward to telling everyone else what to do. Just listen to what he says! "I'm gonna be a mighty king so enemies beware! I'm gonna be the main event like no king was before. I'm brushing up on looking down. I'm working on my ROAR! Oh, I just can't wait to be king!" I think that Simba had a very poor idea of what it means to be a king.

You see, the real role of a king is to look after the needs of his people. A good king is more concerned with caring for his people than he is in being served. During his last days on earth, Jesus was arrested and put on trial. When asked if he was a king, Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world." Yes, Jesus was a king, but he wasn't interested in running around free and doing things his way. He was only interested in doing the will of his Father. He was born to be king, but his kingdom is not on this earth -- it is in heaven.

Gracious God, we thank you for sending your Son to be our Lord and King. Help us today, and every day, to honor him, and follow his will for our life. We pray in the mighty name of King Jesus. Amen.

***Crossword Puzzle***



**ACROSS**

1. A special chair used by a king or queen
6. The need or desire to drink something, especially water
7. A man who rules a country
8. A place where people are kept as a punishment

**DOWN**

2. To feel a desire or need for food
3. To put food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow it
4. To take in and swallow liquid through the mouth
5. To go to spend time with someone

EAT	THIRSTY	HUNGRY	PRISON
VISIT	KING	THRONE	DRINK

**Activity:** Christ, our King did not wear a traditional crown, but a crown of thorns. If you could make a crown for Jesus, what would it look like? Using a template that can be found on the internet, [www.template.net/business/paper-templates/paper-crown](http://www.template.net/business/paper-templates/paper-crown) design your own crown for Jesus.

**Discussion Question** If you were king/queen for a day, what would be your first new rule? How do you think you would treat people? What would you change?

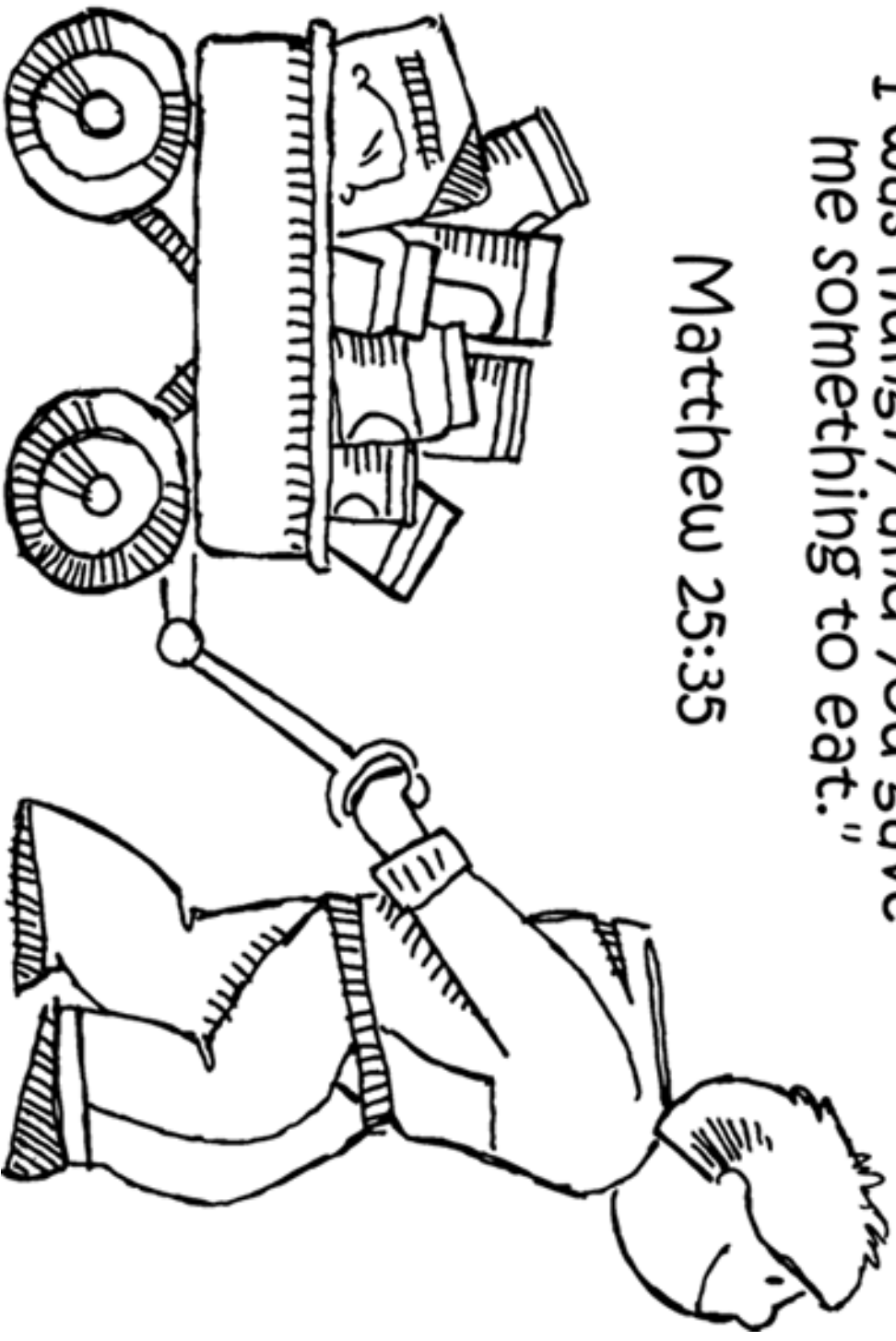
**Family Table Prayer for November:**

God you provide all that we need, your blessings are all around. Help us to open our eyes to all that you do and where your love can be found. Amen.

**November Memory Verse:** I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell everyone of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



## ***“You Can Count on Me”***

**Will you minister within your church by sharing your time and talents?**

**No age limitations- choose as many ways of serving as you like.**

**Parents, please assist your children share their talents for serving, too.**

Please complete and return to church office by November 22, 2020.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

### **I will...**

Serve God and share my congregation’s mission by serving on the following committees...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship and Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship and Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation and Youth    | <input type="checkbox"/> Trinity Lunch   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property                | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild     |

Support worship by serving as... (training provided for all tasks)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter / Usher          | <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting Minister, confirmed & up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion preparation    | <input type="checkbox"/> Communion server, confirmed & up   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Reader               |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acolyte, all ages needed |   |

Nurture my own faith, and others by...

- attending Sunday School and Worship regularly
- teaching adults in Sunday School
- teaching children/youth in Sunday School
- helping with Vacation Bible School, can help with \_\_\_\_\_
- helping with Vespers, can help by \_\_\_\_\_

Help lead congregational praise by...

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> singing in the choir               | <input type="checkbox"/> playing hand bells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> playing a musical instrument _____ |   |

What are your gifts and interests? Please finish this sentence...

*I enjoy, am good at, know how to...*

Thank you!