

# Community of Grace

## Daily Walk for the week of November 16, 2020

### Justice...Take Action

Written by Vernon Mukhlall

#### Mon Nov 16 God Will Not Forsake You

“And they that know your name will put their trust in you: for you, LORD, have not forsaken them that seek you.” Psalm 9:10. You may not trust someone unless you know some things about that person. Instinctively, you would want to know more about that person than what you are seeing on the surface. Is he/she trustworthy, genuinely loving, caring, humble, reliable, dependable, or will he/she forsake you in the time of need? The Psalmist knows the name of God and knows that God is faithful and trustworthy. The more we know God the greater will be our trust in Him. God never forsakes any person who places his or her trust in Him. We may experience difficult circumstances in our lives as we are living in an imperfect world. God may even allow us to experience difficult times, but he will never abandon us. He is always besides us and is in control, working out everything for our benefit. Prayer: Holy God, you are in control of my life, working out everything in my favor. Help me to put my total trust in you knowing that you will not forsake me. Amen.

#### Tue Nov 17 God Highly Values Us

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained; What is man, that you are mindful of him? and the son of man, that you visit him? Psalm 8: 3–4. God fulfills His promise because He cares for his valuable creation - mankind. When we look at God's vast creation, the trees, the animals, the oceans, the mountains, the moon, the stars, the many galaxies, the whole universe, we ask the question: “ How can God be concerned so much

for us who constantly disappoint him? ” Our sinful nature has that constant tendency to draw us away from Him. However, we need to realize that God created you and I in His image. We bear the stamp of our creator who has considered us highly valuable. He loves us, He cares for us, and He wants us to have a perfect relationship with Him, and with each other. He wants us to be His obedient children to live in His grace and to do His will. God wants us also to live a righteous life so as to glorify Him. So, at the appointed time, He sends His only Begotten Son , “who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21. God has done this not because of any effort on our part but because of His love and mercy for us. Let us take action to have a closer relationship with our God because He highly values us.

Prayer: Loving Father, you have made me in your image and so you love me and you care for me. Help me to be your obedient child, to live a righteous life, and to glorify your name. Amen.

### Christ the King Sunday

Written by Vicar Jamie Witt

#### Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020

#### King of Love, Grace, and Mercy

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.” Psalm 9:1-2. We are now in mid-November. We are firmly planted in the season of crunchy leaves, pumpkin spice, light jackets, and crisp outside air. Our gaze has started to land on the holidays right around the corner where we will sing songs about the newborn king. This week

I invite you to dwell in these words with me looking at Christ as our benevolent King who reigns with love, grace, and mercy who abides with us as a constant presence of compassion and guidance. I do give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart for remaining vigilant with us this year through all the difficulties it has brought and continuing to walk with us forward into the next year. Christ is the King of his kingdom that is here now and yet to come. His rule is consistent and stable—a solid foundation to stand upon that will never shake or fall. Prayer: “Christ Jesus, our King and Lord, we thank you for your steadfast love and presence with us. Help heal our overburdened and hurting hearts and gently guide us forward while we hold onto your strong hand. Amen.”

**Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020**

**Sheep of His Hand**

“For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.” Psalm 95:7a. I love when shepherd imagery is used to describe God and God’s relationship to us, God’s sheep. In our world that can focus too much attention on power and strength when it comes to leading people, I find the shepherd analogy comforting. When I was looking at this verse in my Lutheran Study Bible the side notes said, “God’s rule is not just based on God’s power, but on God’s faithful care for the people.” In other words, God’s actions speak volumes. They speak of God that has kept God’s promises and has walked faithfully with God’s people. They speak of God who has forgiven our wrongdoings and worked within them to bring about a better result. They speak of God who cares, for us, and for all creation. They speak of God who never leaves us and whose Holy Spirit abides in us. We are gently held in the hand of the King

and cared for now and in the life to come. Prayer: “Lord Jesus we come to you as sheep to a shepherd. We look to you for guidance and care for we know it is on you that we can truly rely. Keep us this day and all the days to come. Amen.”

**Friday, Nov. 20, 2020**

**Abundance and Healing**

“On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” Revelation 22:2b-3. These words of John bring us back to the Garden of Eden; a paradise unspoiled by sin. He is being shown this vision, and through his words he shares that vision with us. There is beauty and abundance here, but there is also healing. There is a tree of life that produces a variety of fruit on a regular basis, never running out. There are also leaves adorning this tree that are there for the healing of the nations. Those words sound like a soothing balm to my ears. In a year where it has felt like so much has been taken away the vision of abundance is a welcome one. In a year where our nation has felt cut and wounded a vision of healing is a comforting one. The vision of this tree should remind us of what we need and what we can accomplish together. We don’t need to wait until the end times to benefit from this tree’s gifts. When we love our neighbor, provide for each other, and care for one another, healing will follow. When love is shared it can never be used up, like the fruit on the tree of life, it is constantly renewing. We can never run out of love, there is more than enough for all so give it away generously wrapped in leaves of healing. Together with Christ we will have abundance and healing in the present kingdom of God right now. Prayer: “Lord Christ, our King, we invite you into

this space we occupy to turn our minds and hearts toward actions of love for one another. Help us to bring abundance and healing to this moment by sharing your love with each other. Amen.”

**Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020**

**God of Promise, God of Creation**

“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who by myself spread out the earth;” Isaiah 44:24. We not only have a God of promise, but also a God of creation. God is speaking through the prophet Isaiah here to the people of Israel, who are in despair in exile, and God continues to speak through this passage to us today. God’s promises and blessings fall on that which God has created. God created very intentionally and methodically. We are witnesses to that when we read the first chapters of Genesis. God also declares God’s creation good and God loves it. This passage speaks to the greatness of the creation of the heavens and earth, but also includes human beings. Let the enormity of that sink in for a minute. Within the incredible universe of heaven and earth God took a moment and felt that you were needed and formed you in the womb. You are here because God wants you here and God loves you. You are a beloved creation! Prayer: “Thank you, Lord, for being mindful of me and loving me. Help me, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in me, to remember the love I carry from you and to share it with others so that they too may feel the enormity of their value. Amen.”

**Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020**

**Christ the King**

“I 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,...” Ephesians 1:17. We are on a continuous journey as we come to know Jesus Christ. We never stop learning—there is never a point where we have achieved full knowledge of Christ. We live in faith and trust in the Triune God to hold the universe in balance and us with it. We grow in that faith and relationship with God as we acknowledge how much we need God despite how little we feel we understand or grasp. We are still called to yearn for knowledge and connection with God. We recognize and honor Christ’s sovereignty today, placing him in a high place of authority in our lives, however we always recognize this same Christ as the one who guides us as a loving shepherd. We hold in tension the power of God with the compassion and love of God. Keep asking questions, keep learning, keep growing in the knowledge and faith of our King who will continue to hold the world as he has yesterday, today, and in the future. Our King is a solid foundation and steady rock that cannot be moved. A Mighty Fortress is our God and King indeed. Prayer: “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. Amen.”