

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of November 22, 2021

Christ the King Sunday

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

Monday November 22nd

God of Peace

“In Judah God is known, his name is great in Israel. His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion. There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.” Psalm 76: 1-3. The kingship of God in Christ Jesus is a kingship of peace and restoration. This begins with the destruction of the very things that we use to destroy in this life. We are called to be God’s kingdom people by letting go of the things we use to hurt or control other people. The peace of God that enters this world in the kingdom of God begins in our hearts and pours out naturally into the world and lives of the people around us. Prayer: “Enable me, Gracious Lord, to let go of the things that hurt my neighbor and to share the love and grace you freely give to me. Amen.”

Tuesday November 23rd

Awesome King

“But you indeed are awesome! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused? From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still when God rose up to establish judgment, to save all the oppressed of the earth.” Psalm 76: 7-9. God both

creates the peace and judges the earth. There is a deep connection between these actions in the restorative activity of God with in creation itself. Creating peace leaves room for life and judgment liberates the oppressed and the weak. All people and their creation are restored in the loving grace filled judgment of God. This is why our God is awesome because there is no evil or broken place in this world that is beyond the reach of God. Prayer: “When I encounter sin and brokenness guide me into your awesome reign of grace. Amen.”

Draw Near to LOVE

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

Wednesday November 24th

Draw Near to the Oppressed

“But you indeed are awesome! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused? From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still when God rose up to establish judgment, to save all the oppressed of the earth.” Psalm 76: 7-9. As we await the coming of the Christ Child in Bethlehem we wait the arrival of God in our history. We wait for love and justice to be born, wrapped in cloth, and held in a manger as the world stands still on a silent night. We await hope in the person of Jesus of Nazareth who will draw near to those the world has cast out.

Who will judge and give liberation for the oppressed, healing for the sick, and grace for the sinner. We join the psalmist in the hope that only God could bring into this lost and broken world. Prayer: "Draw near to us, O God, with your grace filled judgment that we may be free from what weighs us down. Amen."

Thursday November 25th

Thanksgiving Draws Near to God

"To you, O Lord I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous." Psalm 25: 1-3. On this thanksgiving day around our country we remember the power of sharing by opening our tables and homes to family and friends. As we feast let us remember God's grace and provision in such a way that we become grace filled hosts who share from our own abundance with our neighbors. Prayer: "Loving God, on this day of Thanksgiving, open my soul to your table of grace in such a way that I share it with the people of my life. Amen."

Friday November 26th

Draw near to Joy

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-19. Paul is calling us to "rejoice always" as we draw near to God in this advent season. This is the time of year when we get ready to celebrate God's activity in Jesus for the sake of the world. We remember with joy what God continues to do through His presence and grace. We come to God in prayer and thanksgiving for being near to us each day as we walk in grace, love, and joy. We are called to remember that when we draw near to God we draw near to joy. We draw near to one who will lead us by the light of a star toward unexpected grace, mercy and love. Prayer: "Come near to me, O God, in your joy and love that I may be an instrument of grace this day. Amen."

Saturday November 27th

God leads the humble

"Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees." Psalm 25: 8-10. The goodness of God is found in his call to all people to love one another and their creator. This calling is found throughout the story of God from the beginning of creation until today. When we reflect on the vastness

of God's love and goodness it is easy to be humble. We need this goodness and grace for hope and life to flourish around us. God leads us through this humble reflection to become a part of this great work in the world. "Guide me, great Redeemer, deeper into your love and grace for all people this day. Amen."

Sunday November 28th

Draw near to Love

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21: 27-28. Jesus is teaching his friends to look forward to the unfolding of the Kingdom of God and even look forward to God's judgment. When God draws near to us in His Kingdom, we are being drawn closer to God's love and grace. This extends to all of creation through the work of the church. When we act out in the world for love and justice we are God's hands at work in a hurting world drawing people closer to the God's love and grace. "Draw me close, Loving God, to your grace and mercy for me that I may share this same love with the world around me this day. Amen."