



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Bulletin
November 19, 2023 – 10AM
Pentecost 25

Prelude

Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Come, Now Is The Time To Worship” by Brian Doerksen
(c 1998 Vineyard Songs; CCLI Song # 2430948)

Refrain:

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

1. One day ev’ry tongue will confess, You are God.

One day ev’ry knee will bow.

Still, the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly choose You now. (refrain)

2. Willingly we choose to surrender our lives.

Willingly our knees will bow.

With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
we gladly choose you now. (refrain)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

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.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through +Jesus your 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.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁷ Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!

The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

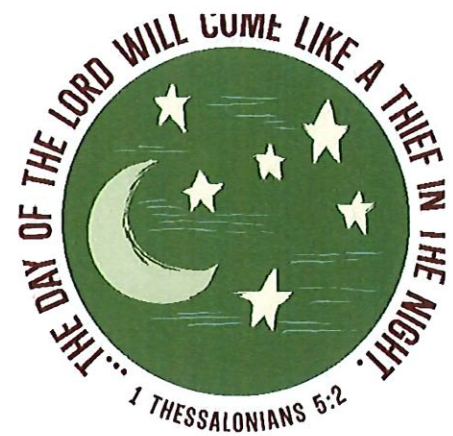
¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³ Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.



THE
DAY
OF THE
LORD
IS NEAR.

ZEPHANIAH 1:7, ESV



The Great Day of the LORD

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷ I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,
you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves
know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When

they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶ the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been

trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter,’ ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?’ ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Sermon **“Know Your Master”**

Sermon Hymn **“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”**
Words by Henry Alford, Music by George J. Elvey

1. Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God’s own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, again today the texts are sobering. They speak of the great day of the Lord. The prophet Zephaniah says, *"Be silent before the Lord God! The great day of the Lord is near... and hastening fast."* God declares, *"I will bring distress on men, because they have sinned against the Lord."* ***Lord in your mercy...***

What will happen? we ask. The prophet continues, *"In the fire of his jealous wrath, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full, yea, sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth."* That's clear. Certainly, nations on earth have the capacity to destroy each other, but so does the God of the Universe. He created the earth; he can destroy it with fire. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that they would not use their destructive potential against humankind. Lord, save us from the wrath to come. May there be peace on earth. Lord, we cling to the promise in your word. 1 Thessalonians says, *"For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."* How do we escape these perilous times? We serve others. In Matthew, Jesus gives us the way to live out our salvation. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation its pastor and people as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and perseverance to the end of time. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

We continue in God's way. We love him with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbor as ourselves. We feed the hungry, clothe the naked, bring the stranger into our house. We visit prisoners and bring God's healing presence to the sick. Jesus says, *"Then the King will say..., 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" Lord, God, we watch and we wait for the coming of your kingdom. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray.*
Amen.

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "Borning Cry"
by John C. Ylvisaker (c 2022 Exultet Music)
Mona White, Solo

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

If the kingdom of God is not first, it doesn't matter what is second.

—Neal A. Maxwell

Picture this scenario: You work for an investment firm on Wall Street. Your boss calls you and two of your colleagues into her office, and invites all of you to take a seat. She explains: “Tomorrow, I will be visiting our global partners in Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. While I am gone, I’m giving you financial assets which I expect you to invest wisely. I’m not sure when I will be back, but when I do come again, I expect results.” You are then given assets worth \$10 million, and your junior colleagues \$5 million and \$1 million.

This, in brief, is the parable in today’s gospel reading. Let’s focus on just one aspect of this story: *How the third guy felt about his boss*. He says, “[Boss], I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours” (Matthew 25:24-25).

Is this how you feel about Jesus? That he is harsh and difficult, making money off the backs of others? This third guy makes Jesus sound like he’s the head of the Cosa Nostra. A bad dude.

So what does this lazy and sad little person do with his \$1 million? He puts the cash in his safe and when the boss comes back, gives back \$1 million. No more, no less. It’s all there.

You know how that went over. Not so good.

This is not the Jesus we know, is it? The parable teaches us in a practical way what Jesus meant when he said to the lawyer, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37). The “talents” stand for all that God has given us, all that we are — our abilities, our time, our money, our energy, our resources, our affections.

The third servant never invested in the kingdom of God.

Jesus is simply reminding us that we are never too old to keep investing in the kingdom of God. Each of us will do that in different ways. It may be a check to the church, a smile to a nurse, a compliment to a neighbor, some volunteer time or a note of encouragement. The investment possibilities, frankly, are infinite.

If we work with what Jesus has given us, someday we will be thrilled to hear him say, as he did to servants 1 and 2: “Well done, good and faithful servant! ... Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:21).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may I be unafraid to invest in the kingdom of God. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

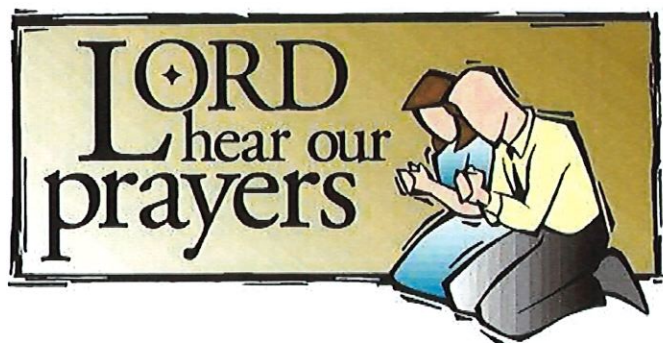


Members in Need of Prayer:

Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy & Stacy Lairson
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Josue Zamora (His Cat Balboa)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Jennifer Sano (Sandy T.)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Ken & Becky (Lairson)
Russel DiGirolamo
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Belinda Zavala (Norris)
Dan Fey & Family (Norris—No Relation)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Gloria Valdez (Norris)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The Lord's Prayer

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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises"

by Paul Baloche

(c 2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI Song # 409281)

1. You lived, You died, You said in three days You would rise.
You did, You're alive.
You rule, You reign, You said You're coming back again.
I know that you will, And all the earth will sing Your praises.
All the earth will sing your praises.
2. You took, You take our sin away, O God.
You give, You gave, Your life away for us.
You came down, You saved us through the cross.
Our hearts are changed because of Your great love.
3. You lived, You died, You said in three days You would rise.
You did, You're alive.
You rule, You reign, You said You're coming back again.
I know that you will, And all the earth will sing Your praises.
All the earth will sing your praises.

Sending

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

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano



DAILY BIBLE READINGS
Sunday: Hebrews 1-4

Monday: Hebrews 5-7

Tuesday: Hebrews 8-10

Wednesday: Hebrews 11-13

Thursday: Philemon; 1 Peter 1-2

Friday: 1 Peter 3-5

Saturday: Psalms 133-135

A POEM BY ANY OTHER NAME

Directions: The first letter of each line must begin with the letters of your name. Thus, if your name has only five letters, you will then have five lines in your poem. Here is an example: SUSAN =

S eventy years old —
U nique
S uper
A lways fun
N ice

Now write your poem using your name!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A	J	S
B	K	T
C	L	U
D	M	V
E	N	W
F	O	X
G	P	Y
H	Q	Z
I	R	

Directions:
Can you think of a name that begins with each letter of the alphabet? Write your answers in the spaces provided.

FIVE & FOUR

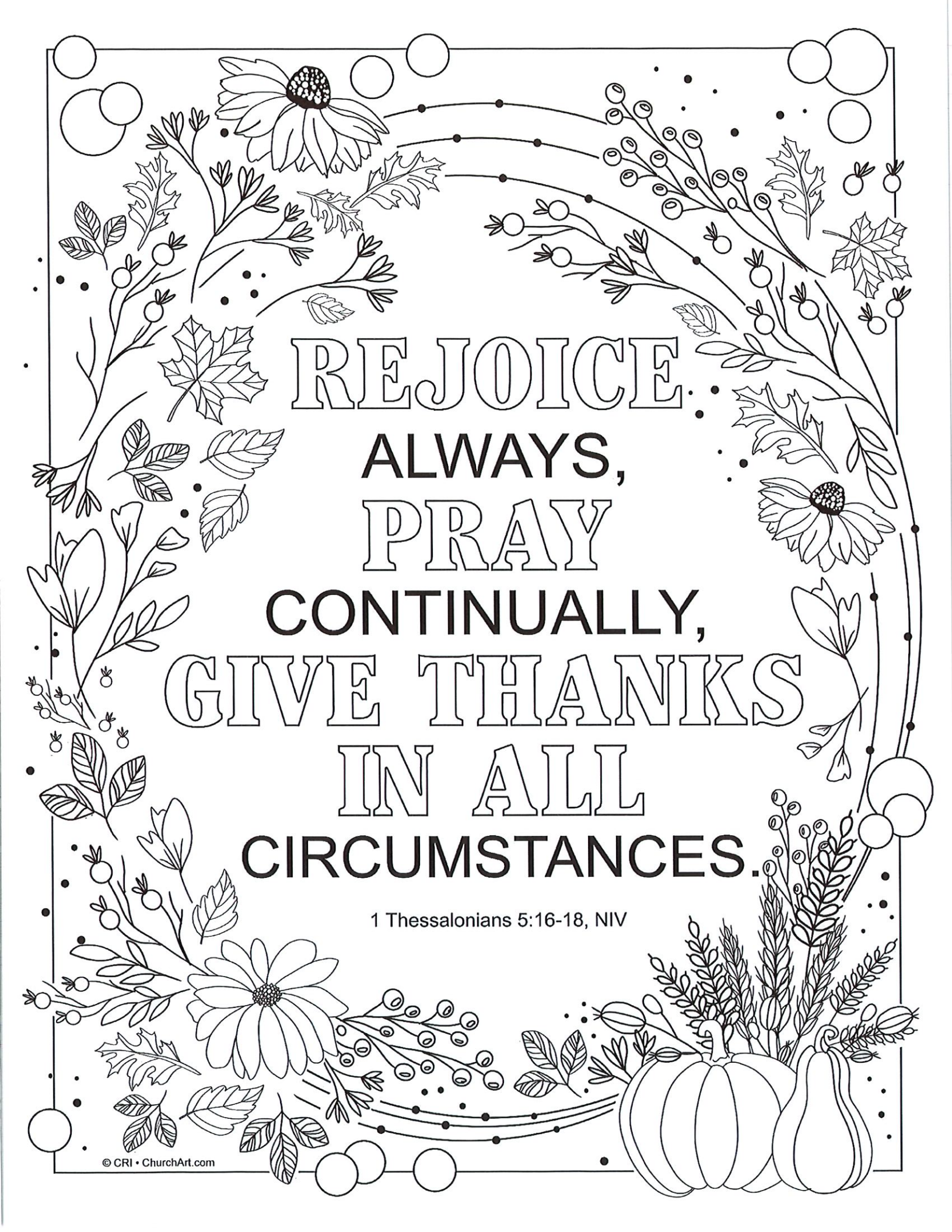
Directions: Each line contains a five-letter word and a four-letter word whose letters have been mixed, *but the left-to-right order has not been changed*. Unmix the two words on each line and write them in the spaces provided. When you're done, unscramble the boxed and circled letters to reveal the mystery word. A clue is provided. We've also given you a head start.

S H A D E L T E D =
P A T G A X I A N =
V I P A S E T A W =
N O V A L U N I D =
S H A □ T + D E E ○
— — — □ — — — ○
— — — □ — — — ○
— — — □ — — — ○
Clue: A pilot's friend —

□ □ □ □ ○ ○ ○ ○

ANSWER TO:
Five &
Four:
shalt/ deed; pagan/ taxi;
pasta/ view; valid/ noun.
A pilot's friend: TAIL
WIND

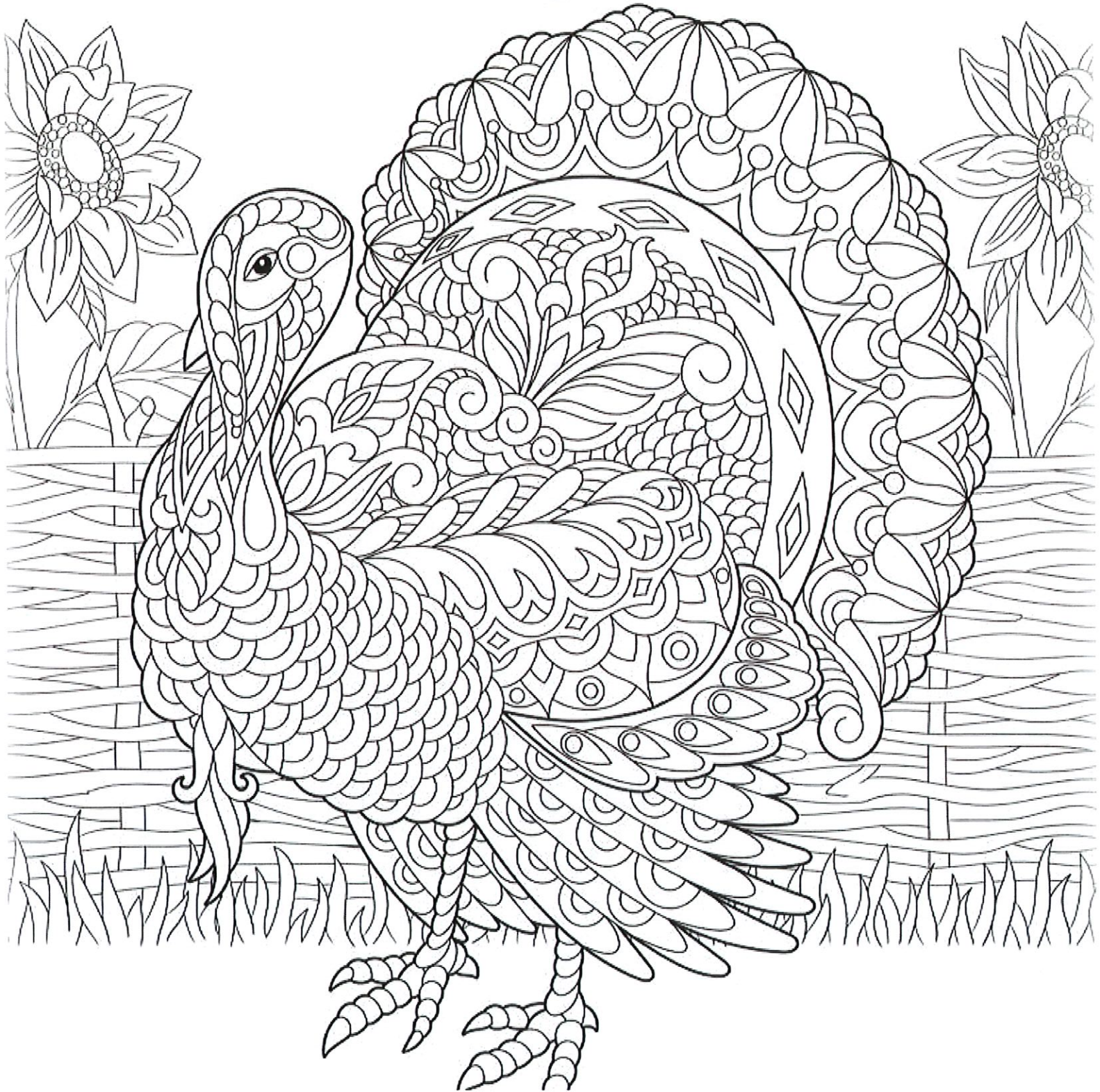




**REJOICE
ALWAYS,
PRAY
CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

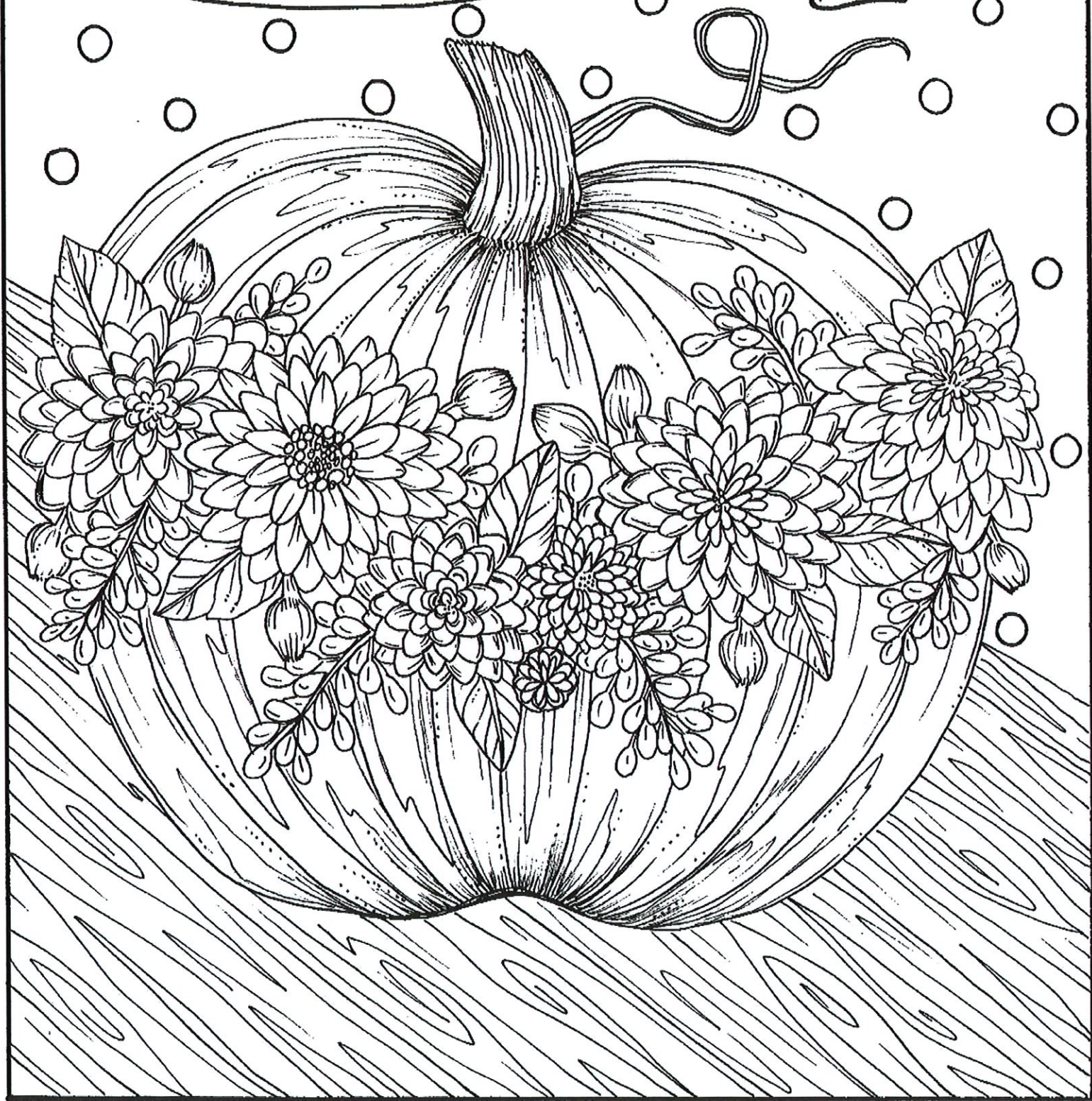
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

HAVE A HAPPY
Thanksgiving





Give Thanks



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Memorial Garden Committee Raffle TODAY

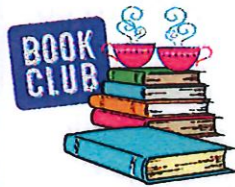
Don't forget to join us after church TODAY, November 19th, in Jacobson Hall for the drawing presented by the Good Shepherd Memorial Garden Committee. If you forgot to buy tickets or if you would like more, they will be on sale at the door. Bring your checkbook and you can purchase as many tickets as you like. We have some wonderful gifts and our GRAND PRIZE is a night for two at the Stables Inn in Paso Robles plus two Terrace Experience tickets to the fabulous "Sensorio in Paso!" Please go to sensoriopaso.com to see what a truly wonderful prize this is!



You have seen our prizes in the newsletter, but here are even more! We have just added a scarf and a hat crocheted by Jennifer Wenzel and five bundles of kitchen towels by Verna Walden. Look at those beautiful colors in the two pictures!

Our committee would like to thank all of you for your support and wish you all GOOD LUCK!!

GS LC BOOK GROUP TODAY—Nov. 19 @ 4PM



November 19: "The Last thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave
Plan to read this month's selection and join us for a casual discussion, **Sunday, November 19, at 4:00** in the Comm Ctr. No long-term commitment required - join us any month a book catches your interest.

ALSO ... There has been a revision in the order we will be reading books this year:

January 21: "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams

February 18: "The Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson

March 17: "A Spanish Sunrise" by Boo Walker

April 21: "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

May 19: "To End All Wars" by Ernest Gordon

BULA

Please help John Hays build another home in Honduras.

Please send checks to Bula c/o Rudy Roberts 1220 E Feemster Ave Visalia Ca 93292.



Operation Christmas Child



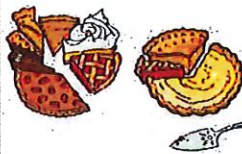
Please plan to help put together a box or 2 after worship this morning. Thanks to Janet for coordinating and dropping off our boxes! Feel free to throw her some cash to help cover mailing costs if you are so inclined.

OWLS—November 20th @ 12PM, Jacobson Hall

OWLS will touchdown on JACOBSIN HALL on November 20th, Monday at noon. Washdown liquid and devouring gear available. Buffet dishes subject to each attending Hootie's desire. "How to Survive A Friend" and "Prayers by Children" are on the program. Tote your favorite board game to enjoy with fellow Hooties.



'Leftover Pie Sunday' 11/26



Please bring your leftover pies, cakes, cookies and desserts to church on Sunday, 11/26 for **Leftover Pie Sunday**. Even if you have just one or two servings, please bring them to add to the assortment.

The Ladies' Christmas Tea Returns!

After a four year hiatus, the Ladies' Christmas Tea will be held this year on Saturday,

December 9th. Doors will open at 11 a.m. for

table viewing and the tea will begin at 11:30. This year's theme is *Coming Home for the Holidays*. Please sign up to be a table hostess - and to attend - on the chart in the narthex. Contact Mary Norris or Julie Werfelmann if you have questions or would like help finding someone to co-hostess your table. Our own John Montgomery will be singing and playing his cello for us to musically help prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of Christmas. We also have several speakers lined up who will each share a short presentation on our theme of *Coming Home for the Holidays*.

Christmas Tea



For the brunch portion, those with first names A-M are invited to bring a salad, appetizer, or main dish to share, while first names N-Z are asked to bring a dessert. Feel free to trade with someone if you prefer to bring the opposite item.

We are so excited to renew this long standing Good Shepherd tradition! Invite your friends and family, and don't be afraid to take on hostessing a table. Please see Mary or Julie if you have any questions or concerns, and do plan to come home to Good Shepherd for the holidays this year! Please watch the bulletins and emails for upcoming information!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



On Sunday December 3, we will have our beautiful "Hanging of the Greens" worship service. Immediately after the service, we will gather to decorate the Christmas tree and the rest of the sanctuary. Join in and get into the Christmas spirit!



Roeding Christmas Gloves/Mittens



It's that time of year! Please start your Christmas shopping early by buying LOTS of gloves for our kids over at the school.



Donate GLOVES

Please also pay attention to the announcements so you're aware that you can pitch in money if someone finds a great deal on a big quantity. Thank you everyone, for sharing the love of Jesus in this way!

Living Lutheran

It's that time of year- we have just renewed the Living Lutheran subscriptions. The cost is \$10.00. If you enjoy reading your copy and would like to help defray the cost, please add it to your regular donation with a note "Lutheran". If you would like to be added or dropped, please let Caroline Sullivan know.



Envelopes 2024



Offering Envelopes

In an effort to cut costs, I have reduced the number of boxed envelope sets to 25 boxes. Those of you that prefer the boxed sets will be receiving a set. I do still have some available to any that did not get a boxed set but would prefer one. The cost of the boxed sets is \$8.00, should you wish to help defer the cost, please either place your donation in the Initial Offering envelope or just add it to your regular donation. I have made up envelopes of return envelopes for those that do not use the boxed sets. If you need additional envelopes, just let me know. If you have any comments or questions, just let me know. Thanks! Caroline Sullivan (559-360-6678).

Sunday Bulletins Available Online

Bulletins/Devotional with announcements are available prior to each Sunday's worship on our website, so you can follow along if you're watching on Facebook! <https://fresnogslc.org> Please spread the word.



Don't Forget to Pick Up Your Pies



If you ordered pies, be sure to have a plan to pick them up Tuesday or Wednesday, and please let me know so I can make sure your pies are in the right place.

Thanks for your support!

Julie



Holiday Concerts

The beauty of Christmas music may be heard in our community through Christmas Concerts by wonderful choral groups. Additional information for these concerts may be found on Good Shepherd's bulletin board.

1. The 46th Annual Messiah Sing-along, directed by Dr. Julie Carter, will be on Sunday, November 26, at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1540 M Street in Fresno. The event is free but please bring a non-perishable food item to feed the needy. For more information call 559-485-6460.

2. Two concerts remaining for the Holiday Season will feature The Fresno Master Chorale and its select ensemble, Coro Pico. Ticket information for these concerts may be ordered through the Chorale's website fresnocommunitychorus.org or by calling (559) 709-6245

On Sunday, December 10, at 2:30 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. Coro Pico will present a concert, "And Suddenly with the Angels." The location has not yet been announced. Good Shepherd's Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of this select ensemble. On Saturday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. the Master Chorale will present "Home for the Holidays," a concert with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra at the Saroyan Theater in Fresno at 730 M St.

3. Sunday, December 3

The Fresno Pacific University Music Department presents "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1540 M Street in Fresno. Ticket prices are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for the FPU community. Tickets are available online at eventbrite.com/e/lessons-carols-tickets-76081342343 or at the door (if still available). For more information call 559-453-2267.

4. Sunday, November 19

On November 19 (2:00 p.m.) the senior song and dance troupe of New Wrinkles presents "Step into the Holidays" at Fresno City College. Visit the college's website for further information.

ADVENT
LESSONS
CAROLS