

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA
August 27, 2023
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Amen.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
You are freed and forgiven in the name of +Jesus Christ.
Amen

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Worship Music "The Lord Is in This Holy Temple" by Douglas E. Wagner
(c 2004 Lorenze Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation)
Song Leaders and The Good Shepherd Chimes

FIRST LESSON

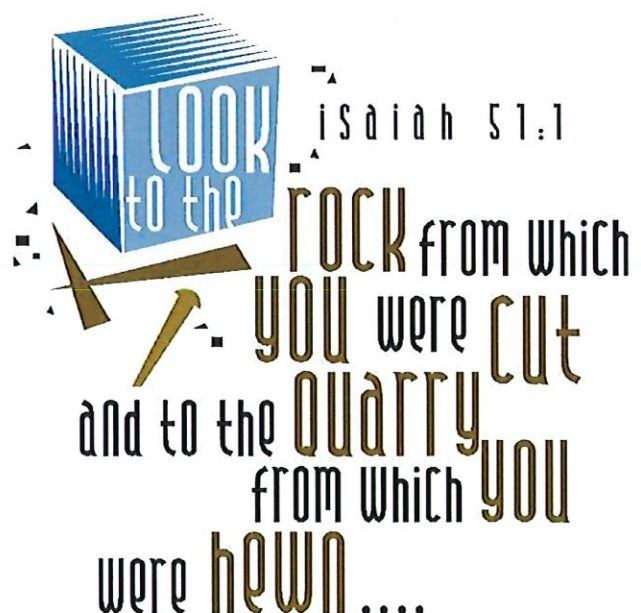
Isaiah 51:1-6
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Blessings in Store for God's People

51 Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,



but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;

he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,

and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;

my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens

and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,^[a]
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

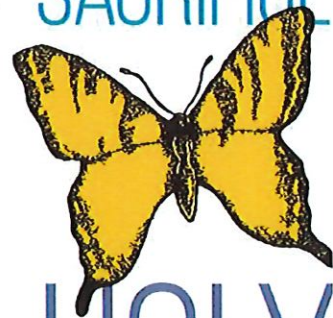
SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

The New Life in Christ

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed

PRESENT YOUR
BODIES AS A
LIVING
SACRIFICE



HOLY
—AND—
ACCEPTABLE
TO GOD

ROMANS 12:1, ESV

to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.^[a]

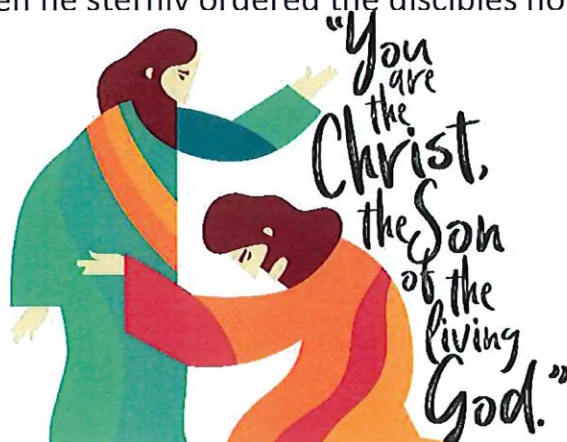
³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,^[a] the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter,^[b] and on this rock^[c] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was^[d] the Messiah.^[e]



Sermon

“The Gates of Hell”

*(Pastor’s sermon notes will no longer be provided as part of this devotional. If you would like to hear his sermon you will need to have a Facebook account and access the recordings on the church’s Facebook page.)

Sermon Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Words by Samuel J. Stone,

Music. by Samuel S. Wesley

1. The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2. Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with ev’ry grace endued.

3. Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heavenly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Special Music

“This Little Light Of Mine” Spiritual,

Arranged by Stephen DeCesare (c 2022 Exultet Music)

John Montgomery, Cello Solo

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:8–2:10

Every act of kindness is a piece of love we leave behind. —Paul Williams

Today's Bible story is about baby Moses, and how two women and two cohorts of women saved a baby boy — a child who would grow to become the greatest and foremost leader of the Hebrew people — from certain death, and in so doing saved a nation.

The first woman was *Jochebed*, the mother of baby Moses, and she defied the pharaoh by keeping the baby hidden for at least three months. Then, “when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river” (2:3).

The second woman was *Miriam*, Jochebed's daughter and Moses' older sister. Miriam's job was to linger about the Nile River, keep an eye out for her baby brother and report back to her mother.

Third, notice the *midwives*. They “feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them” (v. 17). They deliberately disobeyed an order.

Finally, *the princess and her attendants* discover the baby, and finding him adorable, disobey her father's command.

What was the key to saving baby Moses? *Defiance!* All of these women suffered from, or were strengthened by, what psychologists today might call an oppositional disorder. These were definitely strong women. All of them defied the pharaoh. And it is a good thing they did. But what motivated them?

Love. Their actions were the defiance of love. They loved God more than human authority, and they loved this baby more than they feared rulers and kings.

The *defiance of love* is so powerful! Every little act of love and kindness we do is a subversive action against bitterness and unkindness. It's a rebellion that says, “We do not agree with the aggressive backstabbing, back-talking, hostile and oppressive tactics in play in our culture today. We stand against these. We will openly sow love and kindness regardless of any perceived outcome. We are united in pursuit of a common objective.”

Each act of kindness rebuffs the haters among us.

Each unexpected demonstration of love helps to restore faith in humanity and perhaps in God — one never knows.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, strengthen me today to stand up in the face of unkindness and be kind; to comfort someone who has been hurt; to stay beside a friend who is being mistreated. Amen

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, our lessons today give contrasts, contrasts between the world's view of Jesus and the view of those who had walked with Jesus during his ministry on earth. Saint Paul, in his letter to Rome, said it concisely, "*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.*" That's what happens to the followers of Jesus. They become different people. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Isaiah gave the same message in the Old Testament lesson: the contrast between the people of this world and those who come out of Zion. Isaiah proclaims, "*For the Lord will comfort Zion...[He] will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.*" ***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 work together for peace. Isaiah continues with God's prophetic word, instructing about the future. He says, "*Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out...and [the inhabitants] will die like gnats...but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.*" Yes, Lord, you are eternal; your love is forever. So are we, if we abide in you. ***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 the reassurance of God's love. 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...***

Romans has the answer to humankind's quest for wholeness in life, "*present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*" Once that is done, we have confidence that God is with us; our lives are changed, are actions "*prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" God transforms us into a new creation for His Kingdom. Lord God, accomplish your work in us today for we ask in Jesus' mighty name.

Amen.

CAROLYN T. LINN

PRAYER CONCERNS



Members in Need of Prayer:

Yvonne Smith
Jill Anderson
Neil and Verna Walden
Mona White
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:

Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Dan Fey & Family (Norris-No Relation)
Renee Family on her passing (Norris)
Belinda Zavala (Norris)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Karen (Vonny)
Lori (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Emily Burton
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sierra Ramirez (Norris)
Krystina Ramos (Norris)
Dora Barraza (Norris)
Shauna Espinosa
Carlos & Anne Cortez (Norris)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
Pauline Ritterbush
Autumn Dunlop (Anderson)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Gloria Valdez (Norris)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Michelle B. (Norris)
Bonnie Wolfe (Norris)
Janet Sharp
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)
Darlee (Norris)



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

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

Closing Hymn "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" by Rick Founds
(c 1989 Maranatha Praise Inc., admin. Music Services) CCLI
Song # 117947

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 15:1–18:11

Monday: 1 Chronicles 20-23

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 24-26

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 27-29

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 1-3

Friday: 2 Chronicles 4-6

Saturday: Psalms 97-99

Jesus said ...

By using one letter of
the alphabet BEFORE
the letter shown,
decipher one of the
sayings of Jesus.

Jesus said to them:

“

J B N

U I F

C S F B E

P G

M J G F.”

—John 6:35

Answers:
Jesus said ...
“I am the bread
of life.”
Number
Stumpers:
1-83
2-46 or 64
3-55
4-38

NUMBER STUMPERS

DIRECTIONS: This little exercise is bound to get the gray matter moving! Here’s what to do: Using the clues given for each number, figure out the answer for each question. We’ve given you an example.

Example:

Clue 1: It is an even, two-digit number.

Clue 2: The difference between its digits is 1.

Clue 3: When the two digits are multiplied, the answer is 12.

The answer is 34.

1.

Clue 1: It is an odd, two-digit number.

Clue 2: The product (multiply) of its two digits is 24.

Clue 3: When the second digit is subtracted from the first, the difference is 5.

Answer _____

2.

Clue 1: It is an even, two-digit number.

Clue 2: The sum of the two digits is 10.

Clue 3: The difference of the two digits is 2.

Answer _____

3.

Clue 1: It is an odd, two-digit number.

Clue 2: The sum of the two digits is 10.

Clue 3: The difference of the two digits is 0.

Answer _____

4.

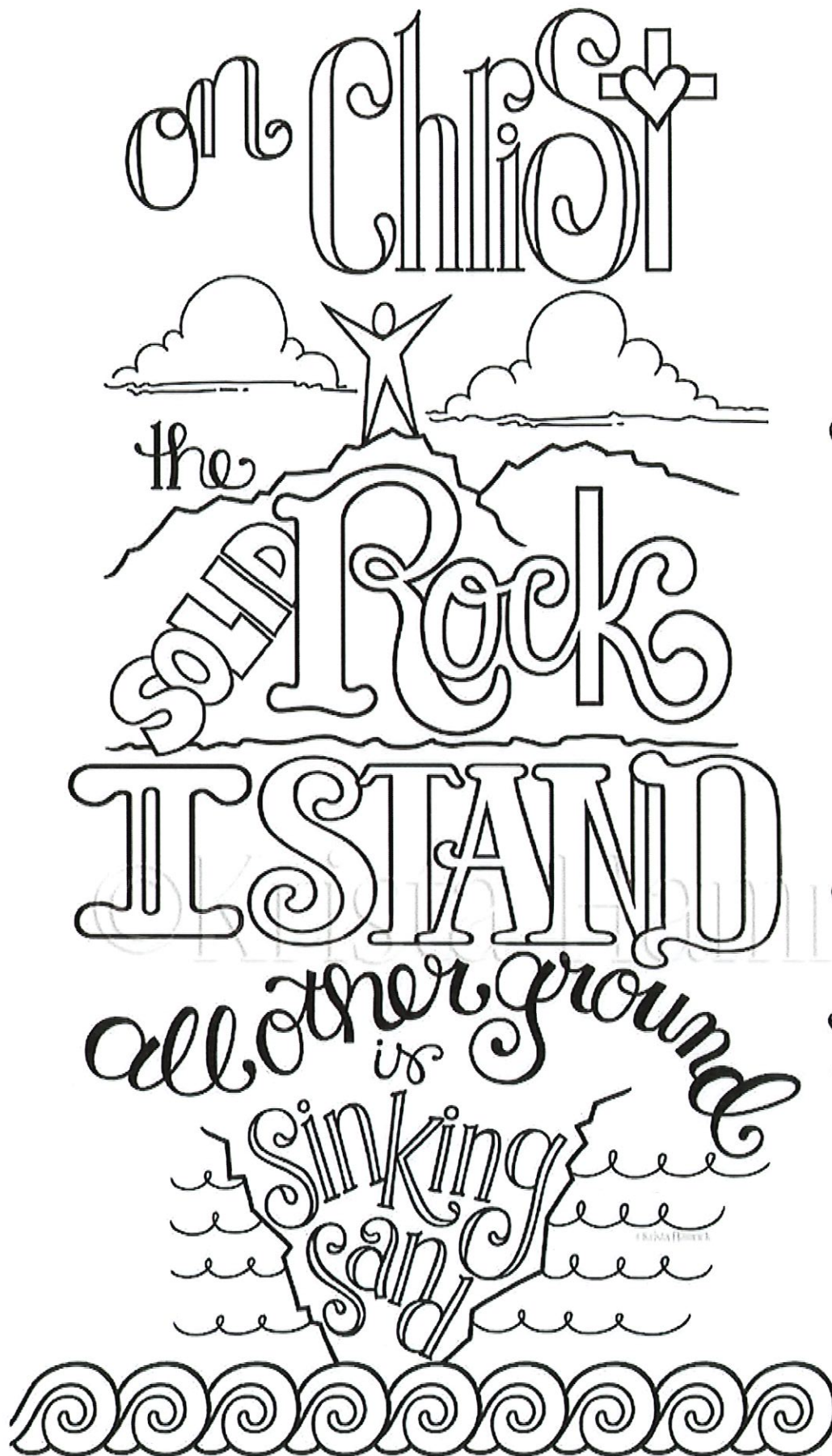
Clue 1: It is an even, two-digit number.

Clue 2: One-half of the number is 5 more than the number of days in a fortnight.

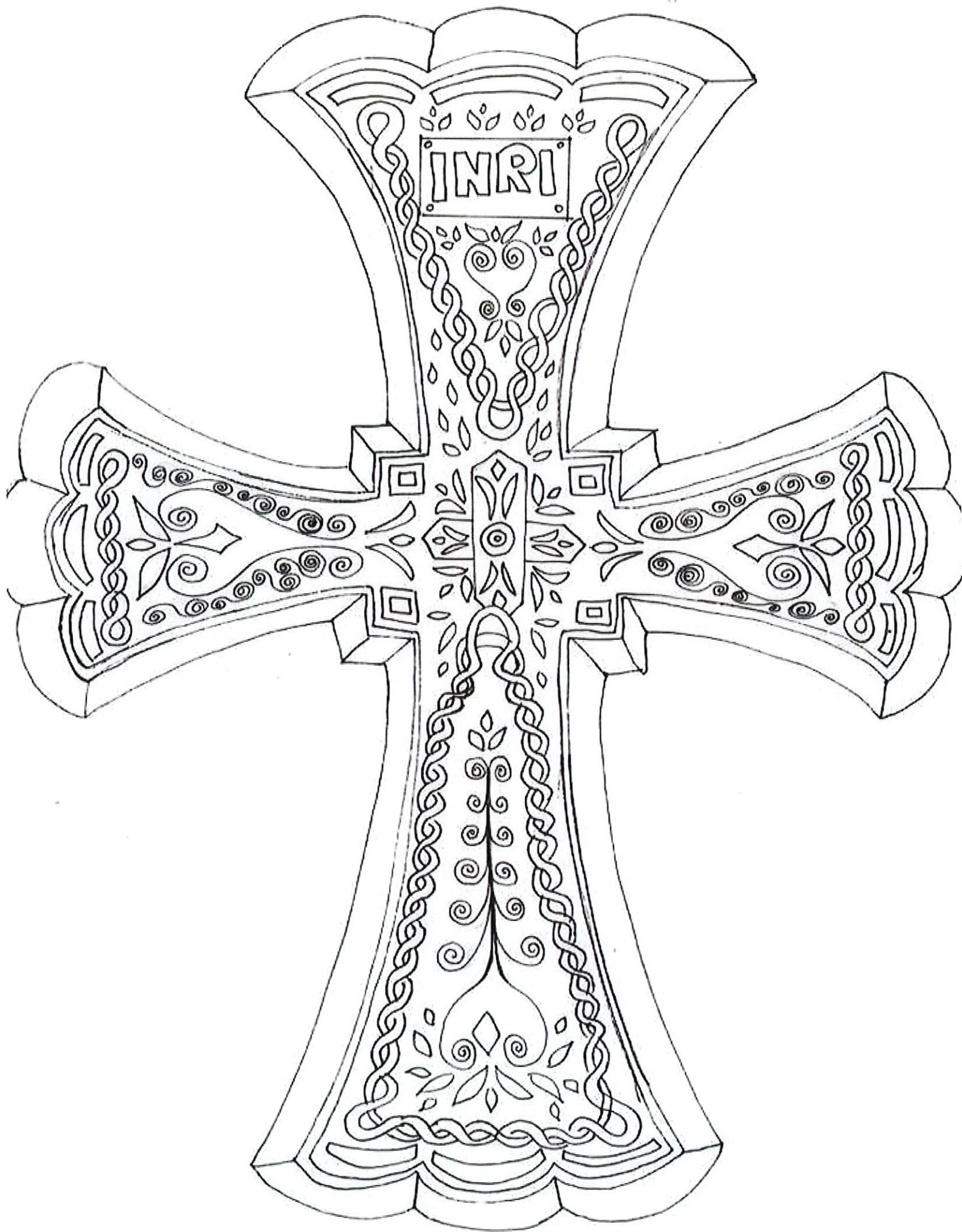
Clue 3: The sum of the squares of the two digits is 73.



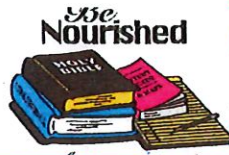
It's found that coloring stimulates the brain and relieves stress.
Use color pencils for the following images.



*He alone is my rock
and my salvation, my fortress.
I shall not be shaken. PSALM 62:6*



Sermon Notes



Date:

Sermon title:

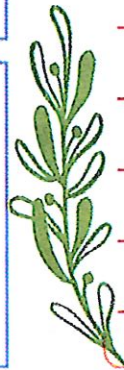
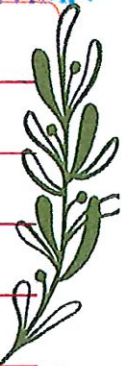


key verses

key words

key people

Notes



Prayers

to study at home:



Sharing the Love of Jesus!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TONIGHT, 8/27 VBS Feast & Frolic from 5:30-7PM

Plan to join your GSLC family as we celebrate the start of school, the end of this year's VBS, and the coming of autumn with a pizza party and water play for the kids. We'll get the pizza and ice cream and ask the congregation to bring salads and sides to go with it. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6 or so, and then everyone who wants to go outside to play in the water or watch the antics is invited to join in the fun. We'll wrap up with ice cream sundaes, a song, and a prayer. Bring your friends and family, too!

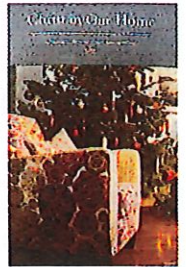
Altar Guild Call to Serve



We are looking for someone to serve God by setting the communion table on Sunday mornings. It will be 4 Sunday mornings on (one month) and 8 Sundays off (two months) on a rotating basis. If you feel called to serve in this important function of worship, please contact Pastor Ted or Gloria Miller. Thank you!!

'Christ in Our Home' Devotional

The 'Christ in Our Home' Devotional for Oct.—Dec. is available on the ushers table and the office. You may pick one up M-F, 9 -1pm or you can email Kathy and she will send one out, just let her know if you prefer regular or large print.



Sanctuary Air Conditioner



As many of you noticed, our AC in the sanctuary was on the fritz. They are replacing the motor for the condenser. The cost is over \$2,000. Any financial help you can provide is greatly appreciated!!!

SAVE THE DATE 9/9/23—God's Work, Our Hands

Our congregation will be participating again this year in the ELCA's countrywide service project. Lutheran congregations throughout the U.S. will be serving our communities on this particular weekend in all kinds of different ways, and Good Shepherd is no exception. The Lutheran Hunger Network will take place here. Assemble flatware packets and center pieces for Westside Rescues breakfast for diner event and bag pet food for homeless client's pets. If you have any ideas, please see Janet Mc or me. Start making your plans now as to how you'd like to participate. We hope to see everyone involved in some way. Thank you! Shalom, Julie



GSLC Rally Day—Mark your calendars ☒ 9/10.



The Count Down has begun ...

Stay after the service to celebrate and plan to bring a friend to share in the food and fun.



Rally Day Taco Truck!

We are so excited to have the El Encanto Taco Truck coming to our church to help us celebrate Rally Sunday! They will be offering beef, pork, fish, and shrimp tacos as well as sopes at a minimal cost of \$2.50 - \$3 each after worship.

OWLS SEPTEMBER STARTUP

Hooties will swarm to Sandy's at noon on Monday, September 18. Ice Cream Sundaes are on the menu. Sandy will contact EACH person on what to tote. Table service furnished. Guest Liz Smith will lead us through a surprise craft project. Materials have been graciously donated. A funny or two plus a challenging mind game are always in store. Hmmmm . . . will we beat Diane's attendance record???



Westside Rescue Breakfast for Dinner on 9/30 in Jacobson



Our friends at Westside Rescue are planning to restart their annual Breakfast for Dinner event again next month. There will be a silent auction, door prizes, and dessert table, in addition to all kinds of breakfast! Please see me if you'd like to contribute any silent auction items or even an entire basket or if you'd like to help with set-up Friday night or cleanup after the event. Our congregation has also been asked to provide baked goods for the dessert table if any are so inclined. I will have tickets available for purchase soon, but they will also be available at the door. Mark your calendars and come support our Westside friends who are helping unhoused people with pets in Fresno.

Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann

Prayer List Update

We like to keep the prayer list current and up to date so if you've made a request to add someone to the prayer list, please take a minute to see if they are still listed. If they no longer need to be on the list, you can call or email Kathy and let her know the name(s) to be removed. Thanks!!



2023 WELCA Conference 9 Fall Event

Saturday morning, September 9, 9:00 am – Lunch

(That's 9 on 9/9 at 9!)

Bethel Lutheran Church, 187 N. Broadway, Fresno
(1 mile south of the Tower District)



Faith, fellowship, food, and fun! That's what you can expect when we join together at our yearly WELCA Conference 9 event on September 9, 2023:

- ✚ Always-inspiring Pastor Sharon Amundson of Mariposa Lutheran Church will speak on the topic of *Rebuilding...*
- ✚ We'll highlight some special ministries in the Fresno area and the terrific work they do
- ✚ We'll have our annual (*short*) business meeting
- ✚ We'll worship together, led by Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom, guest pastor at Bethel
- ✚ We'll finish up with a delicious lunch and time to visit with other Lutheran women from Fresno to Porterville

Registration: \$15, due August 28; please send your check (made out to WELCA) to Tamara Thompson, 1677 W. Alluvial, Fresno, CA 93711

Questions? Please contact Conf. President Sheila Lynch, sdlynchwalk@gmail.com (preferred) or 559-392-3948

See you there!