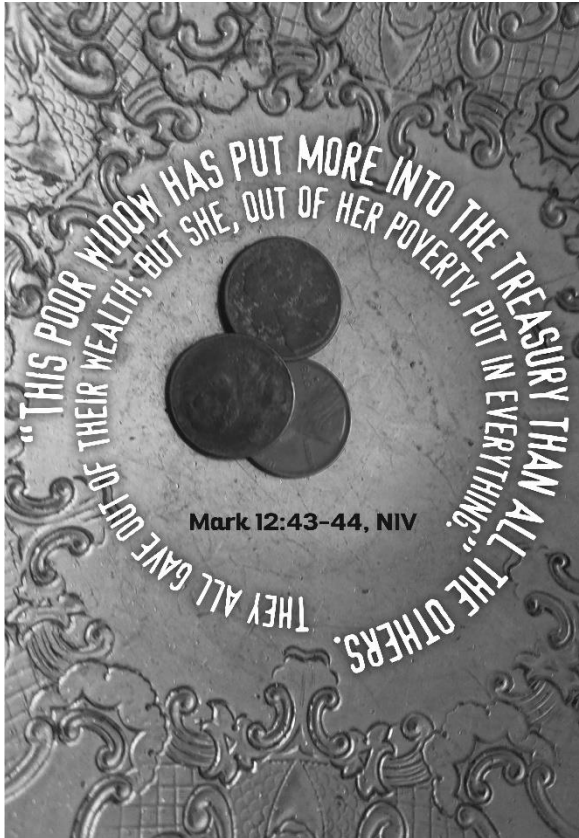


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 10, 2024



Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our refuge,
our delight,
our beginning and our end.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us
and has freed us from our sin.

Kneel

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

C: **we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are complicit in its power.**

We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.

Unbind us and set us free.

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives**

for the good of your world

and the care of our neighbors,

following in the servant way of Jesus.

Amen.

P: These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.

For his sake, you are † forgiven

and God remembers your sin no more.

Let your heart be glad again,

and rejoice in your salvation.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING HYMN *O God beyond All Praising*

1 O God be - yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day
 2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY**P:** Let us pray.

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.*Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16**

This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.

A: A Reading from First Kings:

⁸ The word of the LORD came to Elijah, saying, ⁹ "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." ¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹² But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." ¹³ Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." ¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

A: The word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.¹ Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;****I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.**³ Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,****and in that day | their thoughts perish. R**⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;****who keeps promis- | es forever;**⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who
hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those****who | are bowed down;****the LORD | loves the righteous. R**⁹ The LORD cares | for the stranger;the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the
wicked.¹⁰ **The LORD shall | reign forever,****your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.

A: A Reading from Hebrews:

²⁴ Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

For Christ ... entered into heaven
itself, now to appear in the
presence of God on our behalf.

Hebrews 9:24 NRSV

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: The LORD raises up the poor | from the dust,* to make them inherit a | seat of honor.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the twelfth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁸ As Jesus taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON..... Janet Stroble, ALWL

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us..... LBW424



“She out of her poverty has put in everything she had.”

MARK 12:44

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

With the Help of the Spirit of the Lord..... Jayne Southwick Cool

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

C: **Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
 you offered yourself in love for the world,
 and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
 Fill us with your abundance,
 that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
 trusting in your name.
 Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.
 ☩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.
 ☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 ☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you,
Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world
you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation
you have prepared
for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit
into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord
with a living faith
as he comes to us
in his holy supper.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

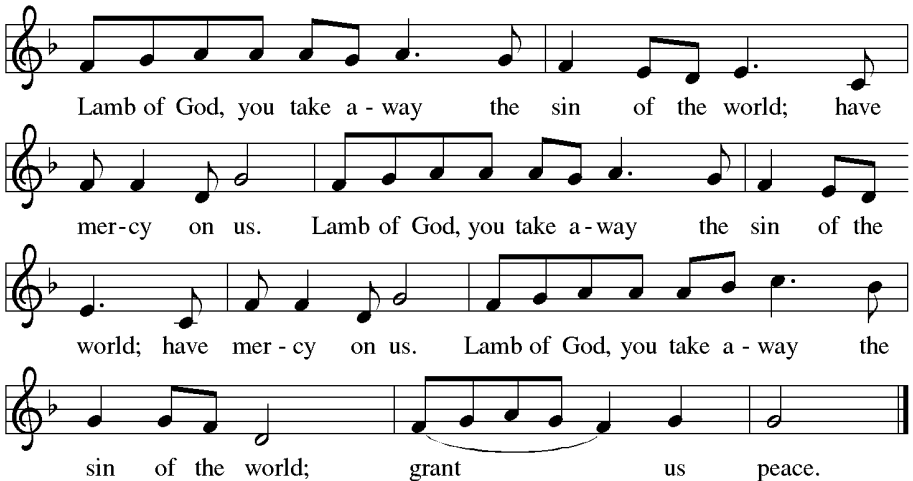
LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Behold, God is making all things new.
 Take your place in the new creation.

C: Thanks be to God.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. 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 say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation*

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

Faithful God,
you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
in the body and blood of your Son.
Now send us out to labor with you,
in service to the world you have made,
and among the people you have made your home,
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand..... LBW 351

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Anita Bair; **Communion Assistant:** Georgette Copp
Acolyte: Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jean Bower
Greeters/Communion Presenters: Mary Schultz, Kathy Stiber
Cantor: Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Arch Watkins

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our brave soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice and in honor of all members of our armed forces today as they are in harm's way to protect our freedom.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, David C. Reigel and Gladys Reigel Batey, by their daughters, Evelyn, Merry and Penny.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. We hope to see you again.

This morning we welcome Janet Stroble, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Janet has received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist.

Please join us in Shaheen Hall after worship for a coffee hour hosted by the Worship and Music Committee.

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, November 17th. Please let the office know if you are not available to take communion. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for Bible Study and Fellowship. *All are welcome!*

The Advent Kids in Mission will be held on December 7th and as always, we'll need some help. If you are able to help please let me know. More information will follow. Thank you for your support. Kathryn Pratt 570-244-6964

White Gifts & Christmas Food Basket Project has begun!

Recipients of white gifts and food baskets are now being identified. If you know a family that could benefit from receiving white gifts or a food basket, please contact the church office by Friday, November 8th.

"TRIVIA NIGHT" is this Saturday, **November 16** at 6:00. We will have some new faces. Lyn and Jeff Reitz will be the Quizmasters that evening following George's format. Please bring a treat to share. Pizza and beverages will be provided. The fees are ... \$8.00 per person; \$15.00 per couple. The beneficiary is Messiah's Backpack Project.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

God's Generosity Brings New Life

As we cross a busy street, a stranger's cry of "WATCH OUT!" will certainly send our heart racing. Such an outburst may not be what we expect to hear, but it is the warning needed for us to get out of the way of an approaching threat. Jesus catches our attention with a similar word today: "Beware." Beware the violence of a system that devours widows' houses while hiding behind prayers and piety; there is danger here! But this is not the only relationship Jesus urges his followers to pay attention to today. He also invites them to be aware of how one widow in their community is responding: she gives—and gives generously. What might that mean for us?

God gives generously too. We often talk about God's generosity being rooted in God's love for us. From the moment we were baptized, we have been reminded of such love that goes with us through death and into the new life God brings. This love takes seriously all the things that tear apart our lives and world—and pays attention to where healing and repair might take hold.

God is always rooting *for us*, and we trust that Christ's resurrection life will bring us through hardships when death has done its worst. What a gift it is to be gathered into the worshiping community week after week, to again be centered around Christ's table and its generous promises of grace that renew us and make us whole: "The body of Christ, given for you; the blood of Christ, shed for you." This is generosity! This is new life!

Yet we do not stay at the table. We are sent from it, together. Where do we go from here? Where might we share such grace and love this week? Perhaps not only "Beware" but also "Be aware" are our invitations to generosity as Jesus draws our attention to all the important relationships around us.

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