

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**

*Congregational Responses in Bold Print*

**PRELUDE**      *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*      BEHNKE

### **CONFESSION**

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom. Amen.*

*One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.*

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

***O God, our merciful redeemer, we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for † his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God. Amen.*

**HYMN**      #707      *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*      HYFRYDOL

### **GREETING**

*Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. And also with you.*

**HYMN OF PRAISE #847**      *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne:  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. 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. Amen.*

## WORD

**KIDS OF THE KINGDOM:**     *Trust the Lord*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### 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.*

<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>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.” <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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.” <sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.*

<sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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; <sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 12th chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## 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.*

<sup>38</sup>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, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.

Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>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.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**     *Rev. Robert Cochran*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     #679   *For the Fruit of All Creation*     AR HYD Y NOS

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

*With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. (A brief silence.)*

... Lord, in your mercy,     **hear our prayer.**

*Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

## **MEAL**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE**

*The peace of Christ be with you always.*     **And also with you.**

*Share the Peace with the saints of God!*

**OFFERING**     Brass Ensemble: (8:15) *Gigue in D Major*     PACHELBEL  
Miriam Gibson: (10:45) *Now Thank We All Our God*     BACH

**OFFERTORY # 692    *We Are an Offering*    OFFERING**

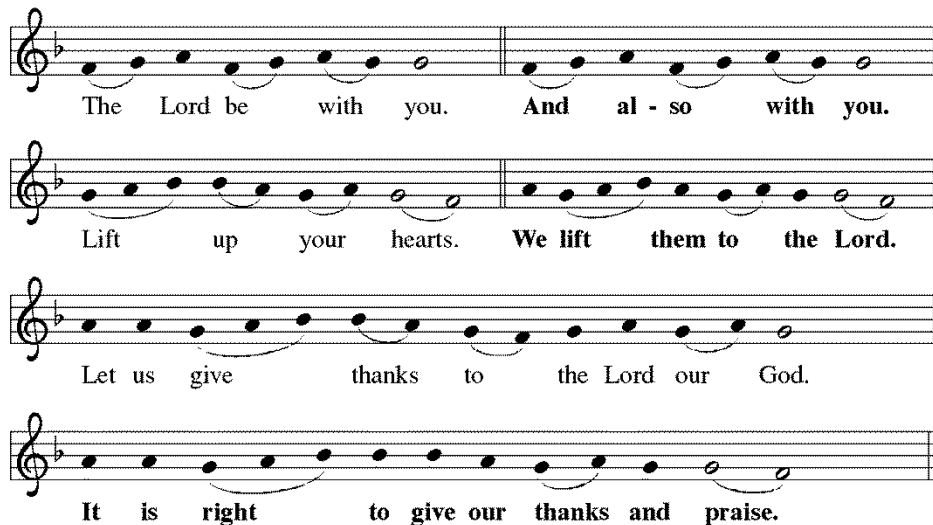
**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.  
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours:  
we are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering,  
we are an offering.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*Let us pray. Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass. The melody is in the Treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the Bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The score ends with a double bar line and a final chord in the Bass staff.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*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

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

**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

*Hunger no more. Thirst no more. Come to the banquet of life.*

## LAMB OF GOD

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

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

## SENDING SONG #538 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* (Note: repeat first & third sections)

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
 to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
 The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain  
 to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;  
 that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
 Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SENDING

### BLESSING

*The love of God surround you; the grace of ✠ Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore. Amen.*

**SENDING HYMN** #441 *O Happy Day, When We Shall Stand* LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

### DISMISSAL

*Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### POSTLUDE

*Hail the Lord of All Creation*

RITTER

*Moving One Step Closer to God.*

*[www.1stLutheranChurch.org](http://www.1stLutheranChurch.org)*

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