

ORDER OF SERVICE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship ~ Setting IV

10:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

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	<i>“Prelude and Fugue in C Major”</i>	JS Bach
	<i>“Prelude and Fugue in D Minor”</i>	JS Bach
ENTRANCE HYMN	<i>“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”</i>	ELW 858

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P: Before God, our rock and our refuge, let us keep silence, and then confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **you know our failings better than we do; our sins are revealed in the light of your face. Our days and years pass by; the things we trust fade like grass. Be gracious to us, O God. Guide us again to the water of life, and renew in us the grace of holy baptism; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P You are all children of the light and of the day; you are God’s children now. In the mercy of God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sin. With all the faithful in heaven and on earth, rejoice and be glad!

C **Amen**

GREETING

P May the hope to which God has called you, the power of God at work in Christ, and the Spirit of wisdom and revelation be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu-ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God,

C: 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

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16

The books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings present a theological perspective derived from the book of Deuteronomy. One of the basic themes of this theological perspective is that faithful obedience to God's Law brings blessing while disobedience brings curse. Today's reading dramatizes God's power over nature to reward obedience to the Law (survival) and to punish disobedience (drought).

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." ¹⁰So 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." ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²But 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." ¹³Elijah 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. ¹⁴For 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." ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The 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.

PSALM: Psalm 146

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:7)

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

**²Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,*
for there is no | help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,*
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

**⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,*
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**

⁵who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;* who keeps his prom- | ise
forever;

**⁶who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,*
and food to | those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;*
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

**⁸the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;*
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

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 has died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.

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. ²⁵Nor 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; ²⁶for 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. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸so 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

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

C: **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 evil ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

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, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then 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. ⁴⁴For 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 Our Lord

C. Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God Beyond All Praising”

ELW 880

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

A: Gathered together with all the saints, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in any need.

A brief silence.

A: Wise and compassionate God, you call us out of isolation into community, out of fear into hope. Call us to work for your purposes in this place, that we might be your living witnesses.

God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Creating and sustaining God, you have blessed the world with all we need to sustain and enrich life. Move us to careful stewardship of the earth's resources. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Holy and righteous God, you have given us a vision of life in which justice and peace are not distant dreams, but a present reality. Sustain the efforts of all who seek to create a more just

world here and now. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Renewing and forgiving God, you offer us grace whenever we fall short and fail to live out our callings in the world. Help us to be patient with ourselves and with each other as we seek to

grow in grace. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Healing and loving God, you provide strength to the weary, hope to the despairing, and comfort to the bereaved. Be present to the suffering and the sick through the work of all doctors, nurses and other healing professionals. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Living and breathing God, you draw your people together and send them out in your name. Breathe your power into all gatherings of your people. We pray especially for Christ Lutheran in Stover, Good Shepherd in Washington, and the St. Paul congregations in Valley Falls and Witchita. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other prayers are offered.

A: Faithful and eternal God, we give thanks for the lives of the saints, whose pilgrimage on earth is completed. Keep us secure in the faith, until we feast with you at the eternal banquet.

God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY

"Break Forth Oh Beauteous Heavenly Light"

Bach

THE OFFERING

ELW 184

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song



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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Creator God,

C **the earth and all that is in it belong to you. Inspire us to use what you have made to give justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and freedom to the captives. May our offerings, given in your name, lift up those who are bowed down; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 152

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

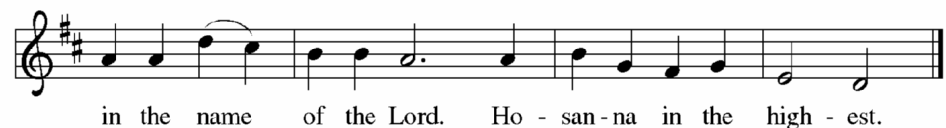
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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...And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name, saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God...The universe declares your praise...with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness...into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son...with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

Words of Institution

P: Remembering his love for us...we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit...in your church without end.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. 154

P: Remember us in your Kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

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.

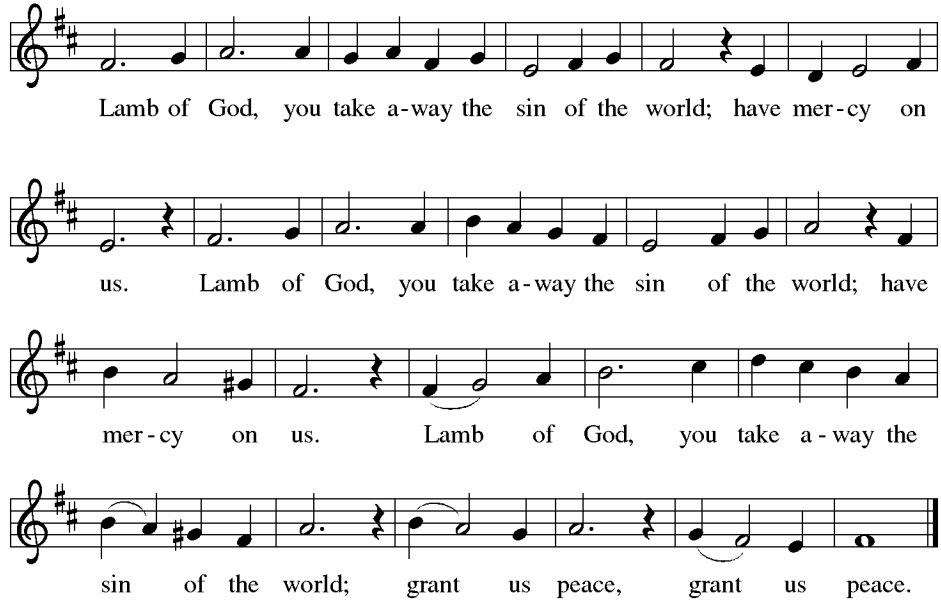
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Feast with the Lord, who has swallowed up death forever.

Lamb of 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, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”*
“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 461
ELW 679

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray...
 At your table, O God, we have been made new. Our mourning and crying and pain pass away, and we see the glory of your presence among us. Unite us with this vision, and make us into your holy people, one in the body of Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P God the Alpha and Omega. Jesus Christ the faithful witness, God the Holy Spirit of truth, + bless you now and forever.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN

“Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”

ELW 441

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccatina and Fugue in C Minor”

Bach

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