**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 7, 2021

**AS WE GATHER**

The story of Elijah’s visit with the widow at Zarephath is familiar. It speaks of both judgment and mercy. Jesus spoke this story to a proud people to warn them of judgment. But hidden in this same story is promise of mercy. Elijah was a stranger in a strange land, and a famine had left people hungry. The generosity of a widow and the promise of God not only sustained Elijah but also the widow and her son! We live in similar times. Though we have an abundance of things, we live in a poverty of the soul where truth, righteousness, and godliness are scarce. There will be judgment for those who reject the Lord, but He will deliver those who trust in His mercy. Yet God has called us to live as a generous people, proclaiming His mercy even in a wicked generation.

**OPENING HYMN -** “How Firm a Foundation” (*LSB* 728)

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Blessed are those whose strength is in the Lord,

**People: in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Pastor: You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich,

**People: for our sake He became poor, so that by His poverty we might become rich.**

*Silence for personal reflection and confession*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

**People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**KYRIE -** *(LSB 204)*

**GLORIA IN EXXCELSIS** - (*LSB 204*)

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
  
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Grant us so firmly to believe in Your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *1 Kings 17:8–16*

**8**Then the word of the Lord came to him, **9**“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” **10**So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” **11**And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” **12**And she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” **13**And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. **14**For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.’ ” **15**And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. **16**The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 9:24–28*

**24**For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. **25**Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, **26**for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. **27**And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 12:38–44*

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

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**38**And in his teaching he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces **39**and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, **40**who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

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

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** - “All Depends on Our Possessing” (*LSB* 732)

**SERMON**

**NICENE CREED**

**People: I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth  
 and of all things visible and invisible.  
  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light,  
 very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 being of one substance with the Father,  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
 and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
 He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.  
  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY** - “Seek Ye First” (*LSB* 712)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

**PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** - (*LSB 208*)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.  
  
Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”  
  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** **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.**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** - (*LSB 210*)

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“We Give Thee But Thine Own” (*LSB* 781)

“Children of the Heavenly Father” (*LSB* 725)

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in

body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**People: Amen.**

**NUNC DIMITTIS** - (*LSB 211*)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
  
Gracious Lord, You have blessed Your servants with many and various gifts and resources to supply our daily need and for the support of the poor and those in need. Grant us grace that we receive Your gifts with thanksgiving, use them always to Your honor and glory, and return to You the worship of our lips in songs of praise and the fruits of our labors, trusting that Your mercy will not fail us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** - “Take My Life and Let It Be” (*LSB* 783)

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