

November 21, 2021
Stewardship Theme - A Grateful Response
Christ the King/Lectionary 32
St. James Trinity Lutheran Church

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.

Welcome & Announcements

Dedication of Digital Plano

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Have mercy on us, O God.

**C We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.
We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.
We have sought glory for ourselves
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.
Help us to love as you love,
to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.
Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

P God, who makes all things new,
forgives your sins for ✙ Jesus' sake
and remembers them no more.
Lift up your heads and your hearts.
Yours is the kingdom of God. **C Amen.**



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

Children's Message

Following the Children's Message, children are released for Sunday School and will return during the offering to be seated with their families for the rest of the service.

Scripture 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.

⁸The 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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

³⁸As [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 the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *How Much Do We Give?*

Pastor Rick Biedermann



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give;
 3 In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to-day



to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
 to make our life an offering to God, that all may live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a long life's way.



so we to-day first-fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
 The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
 O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,



of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
 teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
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Apostle's Creed

C 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.

Prayers of Intercession

P Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need, responding to each petition with "Your mercy is great".
(A brief silence.)

P We give you thanks for social ministries of the church around the world and for every ministry that heals, lifts up, and empowers those who are poor, oppressed, abused, abandoned, or ignored. Build up your ministries and prosper all works of mercy. Hear us, O God...

C Your mercy is great.

P We praise you for the bounty of creation and a world of abundance. Protect the earth from all who would devour its resources. Create and strengthen sustainable communities who honor your creation with loving care. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P We give you thanks and pray for leaders who seek peace for all nations and lead efforts toward greater justice. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P We pray that you will give us generous hearts. Help us discern what we can give back to you from all you have given us. Send needed resources and caring neighbors to all those in need: for refugees, orphans, widows, those unemployed, those suffering abuse, and all who are in need. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P Comfort those who are grieving and restore to health all who are sick in any way, (especially...Read Names). Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

Prayers: Jeff Gerike and Family at the recent death of his father; Kim Schlais and Family at the recent death of her parents; Shelly Schwarz (Daughter of Gary & Opal Kunz); Beth Barnett (Pastor Rick's Sister); Cathy Kaeding; Bud Drehmel; Carol Cance; Eliza, Juan & Opal as well as those we name aloud or in our hearts.

P We pray for families raising young children in the faith, for the children, the parents, grandparents and baptismal sponsors. Send your Spirit to guide them and support them in their devotions and conversations. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for all those who are hunting this time of year that you will help them appreciate the gift of outdoors and protect them from all harm. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

(If you are with someone in your safe zone you may share the peace with a handshake or hug. To share the peace with others you may make the sign of the cross in the air.)

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

Offering

(Offering plates will be available as you leave or you may mail or use online giving or texting for your offering. Links are at the end of the bulletin. For Text Giving: Text the Contribution Amount to 833.409.0619)

Offering Prayer

P Let us pray.

**C Holy God,
the earth is yours and everything in it,
yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine,
and strengthen us to be your body for the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C 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.**

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be received from your seats. Please peel off the top layer of plastic and remove wafer. Then peel off the thicker layer to open the grape juice. We will all receive the bread and grape juice together when directed.

"The body of Christ given for you." " The blood of Christ shed for you."

Prayer After Communion

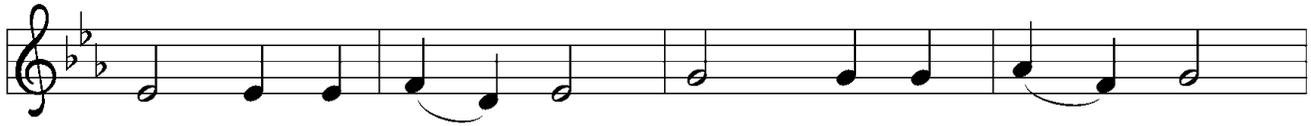
P Let us pray.

**C Blessed Jesus,
at this table, you have been for us both host and meal.
Now send us forth to extend our tables
and to share your gifts
until that day when all feast together
at your heavenly banquet. Amen.**

Blessing

P God, the beginning and the end,
who has written your name in the book of life,
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace
from this time forth and forevermore.

C Amen.



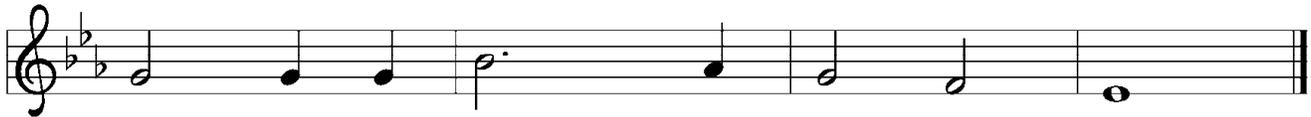
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Dismissal

P Blessed with the gifts of a generous God, we go now to live generous lives.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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Today's Worship Servers

Lector: Crystal Vagts

Next Sunday's Worship Servers

Lector: Deanna Schilling

Announcements

- **POINSETTIAS** – It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias! The order forms are available next to the bulletins or on our website. They are \$9.50 each and today is the last day to order.
- **CHIPPEWA VALLEY STREET MINISTRY** – With cold weather moving in, the CV Street Ministry is in need of warm blankets and sleeping bags. If anyone would like to donate, there is a donation box next to the mailboxes by the office.
- **ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Please submit your committee reports for our Annual Report by December 15th. Digital format preferred and can be emailed to Laurel at admin@stjamestrinity.org.
- **FROM THE OAS FAMILY** – Thank you to all our friends for the cards and prayers given on the loss of our son, Adam. Your concern has helped to lighten the load. -Paulette & Steve Oas
- **NO ACTIVITIES THANKSGIVING WEEK** – There will be no Confirmation Class or Bible Study on Wednesday, November 24 due to Thanksgiving.
- **CHRISTMAS DECORATING** – Please join us on December 5th, after worship, to decorate the Church for Christmas!
- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** – There are devotionals available next to the bulletins for Advent.