

# *Triune Lutheran Church*



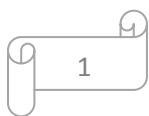
# Humble Service

*Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*We thank you for joining us here  
at Triune Lutheran Church, a  
family united by our Risen Lord,  
Jesus Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!



- The \* by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

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.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing. Silence is kept  
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!**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**  
“Let The Whole Creation Cry”

ELW 876

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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!**

**FIRST READING**

1 Kings 17:8-16

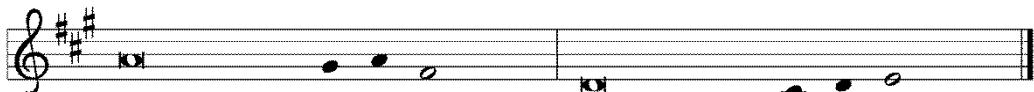
<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; 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!**

## PSALM

Psalm 146



<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

**<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I | have my  
being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there | is no help.

**<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to  
earth,  
and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all  
that | is in them;**

**who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food  
to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;**

**the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;  
the LORD| loves the righteous.**

**9The LORD cares | for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates  
the way | of the wicked.**

**10The LORD shall | reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all  
generations. | Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 9:24-28**

**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.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL

Mark 12:38-44

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<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.”

This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

### \*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!**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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*

O God, preserve your whole church from empty piety. Stir up our will to act with mercy and compassion. Keep all of us, who proclaim your Good News, strong in faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Provide all living things with sufficient food and clean water. Make us ever mindful of the farmers and laborers who supply us with food, and open our hands to share what we have received with others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awaken our entire nation to care for veterans and others who have experienced the stress and trauma of war or other military conflicts. Inspire us to promote the well-being of those who have put themselves in the service of others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bow down to meet those who are trampled. Greet them with mercy, and give new life to those who feel overwhelmed or broken by discrimination, grief, or illness, including Joann Loede, Bev Deitrick, Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Ed Uhlir, Jenny Bennett, Cathy Gallagher, Mary Phillips, Richard Jakubcin, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces, and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the ministries in of our Triune family and beyond, that reach out to people who are unnoticed or neglected. Give us a common vision of justice that eliminates hunger, greed, and self-righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bind us together with the saints of every time and place until we join them around your throne. 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!**

## **\*PEACE**

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

## **OFFERING**

### **\*OFFERING HYMN**

“As the Grains of Wheat”                      Verse 1                      ELW 465

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

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

The Lord be with you. And also 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 our 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:

## \***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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

## \***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,  
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your  
abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,  
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.  
You sent your Son to eat with sinners  
and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life given for us  
and his rising from the grave,  
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting  
feast.

As the Holy Spirit, nurture and sustain us with this meal:  
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,  
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your  
Son.

Through Him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever. **Amen!**

## **\*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**

Hunger no more. Thirst no more.

Come to the banquet of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## \*COMMUNION HYMN

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

## COMMUNION

### \*COMMUNION PRAYER

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!**

## \*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

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

ELW 888

## \*DISMISSAL

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

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Ministers: ***All People***

Pastor: ***Brad Ross***

Worship Leader: ***Heidi Bailey***

Organist: ***Edith Schatt***

Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

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## *The Fine Art of Giving*

Miz Thelma was a widow. (“Miz” is as close as I can come to the traditional Southern honorific here. She wasn’t “Miss,” for she had been married; though she was Mrs. Barbee, you never used “Mrs.” with someone’s first name; and we had never heard of this “Ms.” business—so she was Miz Thelma.) She was about 90 years old and lived alone in an unpainted shotgun house about a quarter of a mile from the church.

She rarely missed a Sunday, walking to the church alongside the road winter and summer, rain or shine. She would only miss when her brother took her to Charlotte to visit her daughter and grandchildren—and she always called the church before she left to apologize for not attending.

But one Sunday she wasn’t at church, she hadn’t called and nobody in her Sunday school class had heard anything. When I went by her house to check on her, she was in bed with a really bad cold. After making her comfortable and calling her daughter, brother and the parish nurse, I chatted with her while we waited for someone to arrive. I asked if there was anything else I could do for her. She wanted me to take her Social Security check to the bank the next morning, cash it and bring her the money. I agreed after her brother arrived, so I wouldn’t be the only one who knew she had given me that check.

As soon as the bank opened on Monday, I cashed her tiny check, wondering how she got by on so little. When I got to her house, she was feeling better and wanted me to wait while she “got the money together for the church.” She operated totally on a cash system—the kitchen table was covered with envelopes labeled “Water,” “Rent,” “Phone,” etc., and she put the appropriate amount of money in each one. Miz Thelma carefully counted the money I gave her, putting precisely 10 percent in the “Church” envelope. Then she pulled out more envelopes, putting \$2 in each: things like Lutheran Retirement Home, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheridge Camp.

It’s impossible for me to read today’s Scripture lessons about the widow of Zarephath and the widow in the temple without thinking of Miz. Thelma. That rainy morning at her kitchen table brought into focus two lessons about the fine art of giving.

The first lesson: Why we give is much more important than how much we give. The rich people in Mark’s story gave in order to be seen giving. They made a big splash, a public

display. In all likelihood they waited around until the temple was at its busiest, a time when the most people would see them being generous. They gave because of the esteem and respect they knew they would receive for giving.

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*Their motivation in giving was to trust God and love their neighbor.*

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The widows gave because they were confronted with a need. Though neither had the means to totally relieve the needs of others, they believed God was calling them to share what they had. They also knew they didn't have enough for their own needs, but they trusted God to provide. Their motivation in giving was to trust God and love their neighbor.

The second lesson is counter to something many of us often think. If you ask people what Jesus preached about, most would say love, forgiveness, grace, loving your neighbor, do unto others, etc. Almost no one would say, "Jesus preached a lot about money." Yet, he did. For example, Jesus told 38 parables in the Gospels, 16 of them are about money or possessions. That is 42 percent. The lesson is that money does matter to God.

Money and possessions matter to God simply because they matter to us. They are the No. 1 idol in our lives, diverting our attention away from God and neighbor, friends and family. Too much attention paid to our stuff will be fatal to our souls. Jesus spoke so much about money because he knew it was necessary to confront this temptation head on, reminding folk that money is a means to the end of serving God and neighbor—not an end in itself. Thus, the rich gave out of their abundance—no need to trust God. The widow gave all she had to live on, relying completely on the Holy One.

As I gathered up her envelopes to take to the church and put in the safe for the counters, I said, "Miz Thelma, you are being very generous, not only to the congregation, but to many other needs. I know money is a little tight for you. Why do you give to all these things?" She smiled and said, "Pastor, the closer you get to the grave the more you realize you cannot take it with you. God gave me this money for a reason, and I reckon that reason is to help other people."

When we realize that all that we are, and all that we have, are gifts from God—freely and generously presented to us by the Creator of the Universe—then we, too, will find ourselves responding to God's grace with generosity by devoting ourselves and our possessions to the care and feeding of God's precious world and all the people in it.

Amen and amen.

- The Rev. Delmer Chilton

*This and other resources for the journey of faith are available at [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org).*



Don't forget our congregational meeting tonight at 5pm for a pot-luck and discussions regarding budget and how we are doing as Triune Lutheran Church, and what we can do going forward for ministry. Even if you can't bring something food-wise, still bring yourself, nonetheless! We look forward to seeing you tonight!

# *Adopt-A-Family*

A reminder that if you plan on being part of our Adopt-A-Family ministry with the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Human Services Department, by donating with/for gift cards for the seven children from two local families, the deadline is next Sunday, November 18. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brad.