**Worship Plan for Sunday, November 7, 2021**

24th Sunday after Pentecost

**Introduction to the day**

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.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Giving Freely**

Did Jesus see himself reflected in the widow’s gesture? She gave way more than her share, all she had to live on. Jesus was about to give up his life—literally all he had. And he did so willingly, even though it was taken from him wrongfully. There is virtue and freedom in giving so extravagantly.

The story of the poor woman who put her last copper coins into the offering for the temple is often held up as an example of extravagant generosity. And it is. We have seen the story play out in real life, in countless headlines that note that people who are poor give away a higher percentage of their income than those who are wealthy. Generosity is good for everyone—those who give, those who receive, and those who witness it and are inspired to hope in humanity.

And yet, perhaps there is another point Jesus is making by leaving her offering up for interpretation. Notably, this vignette in Mark comes right after Jesus calls out the hypocrisy of the religious leaders who “devour widows’ houses” (Mark 12:40), and just before Jesus predicts the fall of the temple. While Jesus tells his disciples to take note of her actions, he doesn’t tell them whether the story is an example to emulate or a cautionary note about taking advantage of those who have the least to spare.

Jesus attention to the widow’s actions calls us not only to practice generosity, but also to take responsibility for each other and to look out for the well-being of those who are most vulnerable, like the widows of Jesus’ time. We all have something to offer, and generosity is a spiritual gift to be encouraged and embraced. At the same time, we must ensure accountability in all our systems—church, government, charity, family—so that generosity is not exploited but offered freely.

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Announcements**

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the recent continued dramatic increase in positive COVID case rates in the city and county, it is necessary that everyone must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, during worship and all other in-person gatherings at Faith Lutheran Church. This policy is necessary for us to continue having in-person gatherings and we appreciate your participation and understanding. If you have forgotten your mask, please raise your hand and the ushers will provide one.

Monday: Executive Board meets at 1:00 in person and on Zoom

Tuesday: Lydia Circle meets at 10:00 in person

Wednesday: Mary Circle meets at 10:00 in person and on Zoom. WELCA Board meets at 1:00 in person

Thursday: Bible Study is at 2:00 in person and on Zoom

Friday: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Other: Let's not forget about the Faith Lutheran Bucket Toss! Did you notice that the narthex looks a little different? It’s filled with displays of our ministry areas. There is a bucket set in front of each display – just waiting for the tokens you and I are going to toss in. The Bucket Toss is a 3-step process. Step 1: go to your church mailbox, and take out the plastic baggie that contains wooden tokens with your name on them. Step 2: go to the ministry areas you are interested in volunteering for or would like more information about. Step 3: toss one token into each of the buckets of your choosing. You don’t have to decide today. The Bucket Toss will be ready for you from now through November 14th. If you don't have a mailbox, you'll find a bowl full of blank tokens you can put your name on.

With Advent coming up, it's also poinsettia time! If you would like to order poinsettias, please be sure to complete the form in your mailbox and return it to church no later than November 14th.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

**TEMPLE TALK**

**And now please turn to page 574**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song*Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

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:** God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

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.

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

**Psalm 146:**

1Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

2**I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

3Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

4**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

5Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

6**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

7who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

8**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.

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

### Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

### 24Christ 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:**

The holy gospel according to Mark 12:38-44. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to page 674**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (ELW 674)**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**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.**

**Pastor and Assisting Minister**

**Prayers of Intercession**

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.

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for leaders who seek peace for all nations and lead efforts toward greater justice. Accompany all who suffer the wounds of war, with veterans who carry battle scars from the past, and all who promote peace today. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for plentiful harvests and generous hearts. Send needed resources and caring neighbors to all those in need. We pray for refugees, orphans, widows, those unemployed, those suffering abuse, and all who are in need. Restore to health all who are sick in any way, (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for missionaries who share your love in new communities and bring compassion for all, (especially for John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen whom we commemorate today). Continue to raise up missionaries for lives of service in your name. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us (those who have died during the past year may be named). Comfort all who grieve and lead us by their example until you gather us in your heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

**Prayer List**

Susan Aldrich; Boss Anderson; Gloria Anderson; Arnette Calkins; Julie Chevraux; Robin Connelly; Daniel Conner; Vicki Crow; Sally Duncan; Joni Gray; Kally Homchick; Marlon Jay; Francis Key; Loni Knowles; Patsy Loughboro; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Ron Neumen; Tina Peteroski and family; Andrew Quinn; the family of Erin Quinn; Edy Rose; JoAnne Schriock; Dee Seel; Sharon Seims; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; the Van Oorts; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; Bernie Weston; Mary Yturralde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests. We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones. At this time we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

If you would like your name added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship.

This month we are highlighting the ministry of Stewardship, especially this year’s emphasis "Let your light shine – to the glory of God!"

It is as Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

...Your offering, gathered in praise of God, helps this ministry by...

This month, we will hear during worship from three Faith members about how God has worked and continues to work in their lives, and how they respond to God’s generosity through their gifts of time and energy, talents and skills, and monetary giving. Thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Meal:** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

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 (ELW p. 153)**

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:*

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 Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

Now, I invite you to gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.

As a note, it helps to take the wafer off first then the juice separately afterward.

Gathering at Christ's table, we trust in God's all-reaching power and grace to provide each one of us the complete and total sacrament in these extraordinary times

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.

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:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to page 774 \*\*\*bRIEF music pauses between each verse**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song*What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* (ELW 774)**

**And now please turn to page 677**

***This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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