



She put in
everything
she had, all she had
to live on MARK 12:44

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November 9 & 10, 2024 Lectionary 32

Preparing to Hear Today's Readings

Both widows in today's readings are featured prominently and each is portrayed as an exemplary woman. When Elijah arrives in Zarephath, the widow is out working with her son to collect sticks for their fire to make what she thinks will be their last meal. This woman has done everything she can to survive. She has come to the end of the line. In gospel, the widow has reached the same point, and she makes a love offering of her last two coins. In both cases, these women act contrary to cultural expectations. Not only do they not ask for handouts, they continue to give to others out of their meager resources.

Why were biblical authors so interested in featuring women who existed on the very lowest rungs of society? These stories shift our attention from the center to the margins of society, emphasizing God's concern for human dignity and flourishing for all of God's creatures. Throughout the Bible, both in stories and in the law, the call to care for widows, orphans, and foreigners is sounded over and over again.

Gathering

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

Preservice Music

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

Amen.

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us
and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,
**we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are complicit in its power.**

We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.

Unbind us and set us free.

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives
for the good of your world
and the care of our neighbors,
following in the servant way of Jesus.**

Amen.

These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.

For his sake, you are † forgiven
and God remembers your sin no more.

Let your heart be glad again,
and rejoice in your salvation.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn “As Saints of Old”

No. 695

Greeting

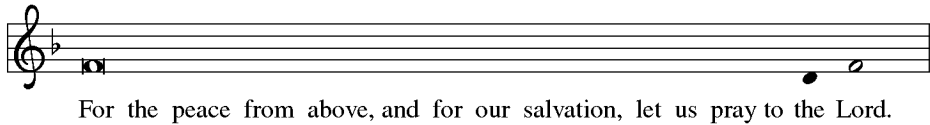
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

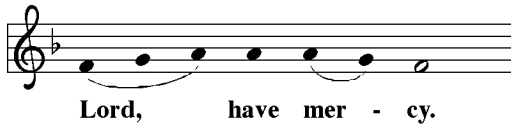
Kyrie



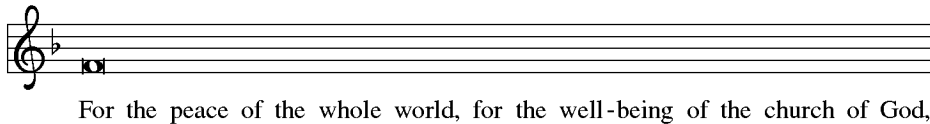
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



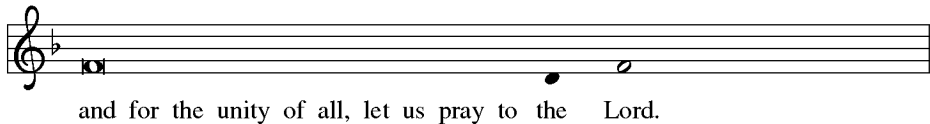
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



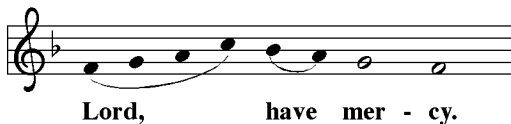
Lord, have mer - cy.



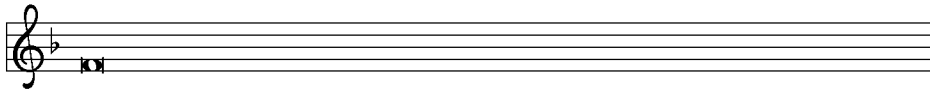
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



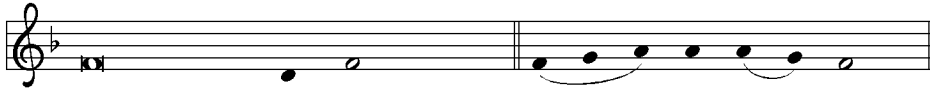
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



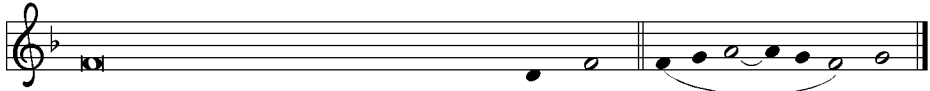
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Hymn of Praise



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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.

Word

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

First 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 – he erected shrines to Baal and worshipped. This passage depicts God’s saving acts not only in support 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146

Psalm Spoken, Italicized sung (Tune: ELW 717)

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.

*Oh praise the Lord, my soul! I'll praise Him all my life.
With music I shall give him praise, as long as I shall live.*

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

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

*Trust not in mortal flesh, nor those who rule with pow'r;
They take their breath, return to clay, and fruitless are their plans.*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
who made heaven and earth,
the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise forever;
who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

*How happy is the one, who trusts in God the Lord,
Who made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all there-in.*

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

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

*Oh praise the Lord, my soul, the Father and the Son,
Who with the Spirit ever rule, while endless ages run.*

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

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.

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.

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

The holy gospel according to Mark

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: “Loosening Our Grip and Letting Go”

Hymn of the Day “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

No. 678

Apostles’ Creed

Together with the whole church,
we confess the faith into which we were baptized.

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

Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for justice in our bishops, pastors, and lay leaders as you raise up new pastoral leadership for your church. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small and strengthen us in our pursuit of climate justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation's veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Guide leaders of the world to end the brutal wars in the Middle East and in Ukraine and grant that all leaders may pursue peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill – especially those we name in our hearts or aloud. Be an abiding presence to children who are in foster care, and the aged and infirmed who live alone. Watch over and uphold them. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness as we prepare again to search for a pastor to lead us. Guide our Interim Bishop Barbara Collins as she cares for us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Happy are those whose help was in you. We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Children's Message (Sunday)

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Song "For the Fruit of All Creation"

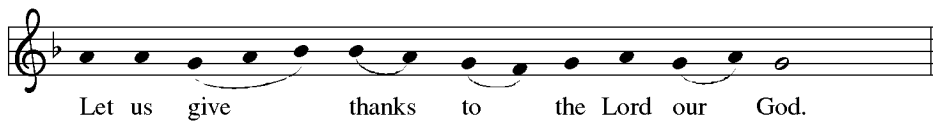
No. 679

Offering Prayer

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
you offered yourself in love for the world,
and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
Fill us with your abundance,
that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
trusting in your name.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



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” (Setting Three, ELW pg.144)

Thanksgiving at the Table

We give you thanks, gracious Father,
for the produce of the earth and sea.
You provide more than we need, your cup runneth over.
We give you thanks for your Son,
who also provided for our needs when,

Our Lord's Words of Institution

We remember how you came among us in Jesus Christ,
exposing the hypocrisy of the proud
and honoring the generosity of the humble.
The powers of evil had him killed,
but in his sacrificial death he removed our sins.
You raised him to new life and made him the high priest
who appears on our behalf in your Holy Place,
as he prepares to return in glory
bringing your salvation to all the world.
Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son
and in so doing make all things new in Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
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

The food of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

“Lamb of God” (Setting Three, ELW pg.146)

Special Music “Abide With Me” Performed by Matt Maher

Prayer after Communion

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.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.

Sending Hymn “Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”

No. 441

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the presence of Jesus for others.

Thanks be to God.

+ + +

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