

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

(409) 735-4573



First Sunday of Advent

November 7, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE Selection by Rob Clark

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Day by Day”

ELW 790

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND GREETING

The first candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. **Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

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

ELW S529

Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The cantor will sing the verses.



Turn to us again, O God, our Savior, let your anger cease from us.

Lord, have mercy.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Show us your compassion, O God our Lord, grant us your salvation.

Christ, have mercy.



Christ, have mer - cy.

Come and bring salvation; we wait, O God; may your glory dwell in us.

Lord, have mercy.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

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.

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

PSALM HYMN

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

ELW 843



SECOND LESSON

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.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Worshippers are invited to join the choir in singing the refrain; the choir will chant the verse.



The Lord raises up the poor from the dust, to make them inherit a seat of honor.

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.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY “When the Poor Ones”

ELW 725

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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.

A brief silence.

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. 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. 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.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

RECEIVING THE OFFERING

ANTHEM “King of Glory, King of Peace” - David C. Walker

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. **Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

THE 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.**

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW 190



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 199

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Selections by Rob Clark

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand if you are able.

Let us pray. you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. **In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Selection by Rob Clark

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.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright ©2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000784

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989. Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved

Gospel Acclamation, St. Martin's Psalter, Thomas Pavelchko, St. James Music Press. Used with permission. All rights reserved

“King of Glory, King of Peace” David Charles Walker, arranged by Robert Brewer. Copyright ©1993, Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Kingston, NY 12401. All rights reserved. Used Under ONE LICENSE #A-736209