



*<sup>43</sup>...“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.”*

*~Mark 12:43 -44*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – November 8, 2015**

PO Box 411  
420 Beaver Street  
Mars, PA 16046-0411  
[www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)

Phone: 724-625-1830

email:[office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)

Pastor's cell: 412-585-1628

Pastor's email: [pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org)

Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor  
Rev. James Dollhopf, Guest Preacher  
Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost– November 8, 2015**

*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.*

**PRELUDE:** *Day by Day* – J. Bert Carlson

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,+ one God,  
clothed in majesty ever since the world began,  
who loves us and frees us from our sins,  
who leads us with all the saints to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Let us draw near with a true heart  
and confess our sins to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our maker and redeemer,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed.**  
**We come for refuge to your infinite mercy.**  
**You have given your only Son to die for us;**  
**have mercy on us, and for his sake, forgive us all our sin.**  
**By your Holy Spirit,**  
**increase in us true knowledge of you and your will,**  
**and true obedience to your word,**  
**that by your grace we may come to everlasting life;**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Almighty God has had mercy on us,  
and God's only Son has been given to die for us,  
and for his sake God + forgives us all our sin.  
Believing in Jesus' name,  
you have received power to become the children of God;  
you have received the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #434: *Jesus Shall Reign***

#### **\*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.**

## \*GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



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

All



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

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.**

## 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. 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.*

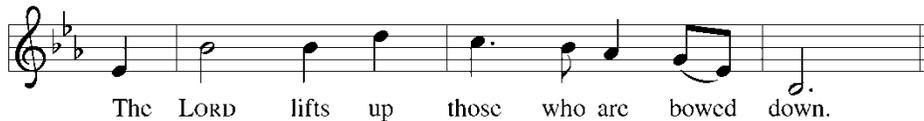
<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; 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 146

*The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.*



<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.**

**R**

<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.**

**R**

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

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

**R**

## 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.*

<sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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; <sup>26</sup>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

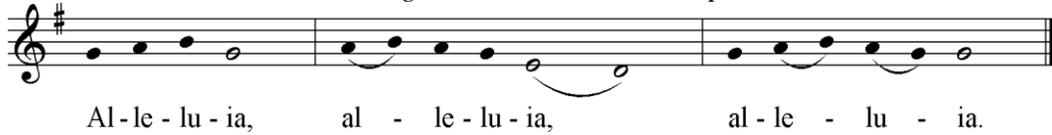
sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*The cantor sings the Alleluias, and all repeat them.*



*Verse (cantor):* The Lord raises up the poor from the dust,  
to make them inherit a seat of honor. (1 Samuel 2:8)

**\*GOSPEL READING: Mark 12:38-44**

*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.*

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #790: Day by Day**

**\*REMEMBERING THE SAINTS**

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors, especially Rehanna Lydon, Roy & Betty Grise, Edie Duffey, Richard Lydon, William A. Shepard, Jacob Lydon.

As we remember these your children,  
strengthen us to follow Christ through this world  
until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life,  
where suffering and death will be no more.

**Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

**\*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**

United into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with all God's saints for healing, wholeness, and peace in all the earth.

Eternal God, you watch over the stranger. Be with missionaries serving in many lands. Give them compassion and grace as they embody your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creative God, you made heaven and earth. Move us to delight in the earth and care for it as you desire. Bless farmers and gardeners as they rest from tilling the fields. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you execute justice for the oppressed. Guide global economic and financial leaders and all politicians. Embolden them to create financial policies that embody your justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, just as you set the prisoners free, liberate all who are bound by physical and mental chains. Grant healing and wholeness to suffering communities, families, and individuals, especially Bob, Frieda, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abundant God, you uphold the orphan and the widow. Provide homes and love for all who are alone, neglected, or abandoned in our community. Open our hearts to care for all your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, your steadfast love is endless. Keep us faithful to you and teach us through the witness of the saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your care, Alpha and Omega, we entrust all for whom we pray. Be with us now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

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

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN #583: *Take My Life, That I May Be***

*(Please stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.)*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,  
as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills  
were gathered together to become one bread,  
so let your church be gathered together  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,  
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

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. 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 in the high - est.

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

**\*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**

God gives food to those who hunger.  
Come, be fed, be healed.

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.*

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***

The image shows the musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have'. The second staff contains: 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The third staff contains: 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The fourth staff contains: 'sin of the world; grant us peace.'

**COMMUNION HYMN #638: *Blessed Assurance***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.  
**Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

O God, you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The love of God who created you,  
the mercy of + Jesus Christ who died for you,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you,  
keep you at one with all the faithful, living and departed,  
and remain with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #589: *All Depends on Our Possessing***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Jesus Shall Reign* – David Cherwien**

---

**10:00 am**

**Assisting Minister: Martha Ward**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Usher: Jim Hager**

**Attendance Last Week: 74**

**Attendance Last Year: 53**

**Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,755.44**

**Last Week's Giving: \$ 4,236.00**

**YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$115,728.58**

**YTD Receipts: \$118,745.80**

**YTD Actual Expense: \$109,064.91**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

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.

Psalm refrain reproduced from Psalter for Worship Year B © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission.