

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY

November 10 & 11, 2012

Veterans, please gather prior to service in the Narthex

AS WE GATHER

We will be hearing the ultimate stewardship Bible story today. It's about the widow who placed two copper coins into the temple's offering box. Jesus then told His disciples, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all 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*. We never do find out if this widow was befriended that day or if she slowly starved to death. Either way, she was living that day in "our blessed hope" *Titus 2:13*. The Epistle of James gives us one more picture of living with faith and hope in God's promises. He wrote, "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" *James 5:7-8*. Today, we will hear how we can live in blessed hope and patient faith as we give our offerings to the Lord.

WELCOME

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

MINISTRY MOMENT

The Gideons International

+ PREPARATION +

Please rise & face the cross at the entrance of the Sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

AGPS #69

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is
marching on.

Refrain **Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!**
 Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. **Refrain**

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
While God is marching on. **Refrain**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: This is the day which the LORD has made:

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the LORD is to be praised. *Psalm 113:3*

Pastor: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.

People: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. *Psalm 84:10, adapted*

Pastor: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

People: teach me your paths. *Psalm 25:4*

Pastor: Sanctify us in your truth;

People: Your Word is truth. *John 17:17, adapted*

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting, *Psalm 133:3*

People: the name of the LORD is to be praised.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God and to one another:

All: Most merciful God, in hard times we try to hold onto as much of our money as we can. We confess that we have been wasteful in big or small ways with what you have so graciously given to us to support our body and life. Forgive us, we pray, for the times we have stored up treasures on earth neglecting the treasures of heaven and for the times we have spent money frivolously on what we think is important. Our generosity is at times abysmal, our love for others tentative. All these things we bring before Jesus, the Redeemer of our bodies, minds, and spirits.

Pastor: If this is your true confession, then declare so by saying, "Yes."

People: Yes.

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Receive the steadfast love of God. You are sealed in the blood, shed by our Lord Jesus on the cross. He alone has atoned for your sins. By His gracious actions, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and ever-living God, you have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in you. Grant us so firmly to believe in your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD+

OLD TESTAMENT 1 Kings 17:8-16 (*Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath*) Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

EPISTLE Hebrews 9:24-28 (*Jesus bore the sins of many.*) For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

(Rise)

GOSPEL Mark 12:38-44 (*The Widow's Offering*) As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in

large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

SERMON

For us...

Hebrews 9:24-28

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the back page of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastor: Almighty God, we give thanks for all your goodness and bless you for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for your holy Church, for the Means of Grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come.

People: Help us to treasure in our hearts all that you have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to your service.

Pastor: Father in Heaven, grant your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in your Church;

People: by their devoted service, may faith abound in the hearts and lives of your people and your kingdom increase.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, send the light of your truth into all the earth.

People: Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands.

Pastor: Almighty God, in your mercy strengthen all newly established congregations and support them in challenging times.

People: Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and by your Spirit let their faith and zeal for the Gospel refresh and renew the witness of your people everywhere.

Pastor: Almighty God, your Word declares the love and salvation found in Jesus Christ, the hope of the ends of the earth.

People: Bless the work of the Gideons International in spreading your Word in our world.

Pastor: Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land,

People: we pray especially for the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of Wisconsin, and for all those who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Pastor: Receive our grateful thanks for all who have served our country in the armed forces over many years, putting themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens of our land.

People: Help us to honor them for the sacrifices they have made.

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, sanctify our homes with your presence, and bless them with joy. Today we celebrate with Chloe and the Simek family. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism and enable parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion.

People: Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show your praise in our land and in all the world.

Pastor: By your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially Gretchen, Eleanor, Jerry, Robin, Gil, Nancy, Sarah, Gerald and Joe. Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near and those who remember loved ones including Donald's family.

People: Bring healing to the sick, consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of your love, keeping them always in your tender care.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace + of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the word; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.
(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #732 "All Depends on Our Possessing"

All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith unshaken
By their God are not forsaken And will keep a dauntless heart.

He who to this day has fed me And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine. He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me Will remain my help divine.

Many spend their lives in fretting Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground. I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure And that now is seldom found.

When with sorrow I am stricken, Hope anew my heart will quicken;
All my longing shall be stilled. To His loving kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender, For on God alone I build.

Well He knows what best to grant me; All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt His wisdom never;
As God wills, so be it ever; I commit to Him my way.

If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace.

HYMN #787 "The Temple Rang with Golden Coins"

The temple rang with golden coins The rich in bright array
Contributed from gleaming hoards Their scales could scarcely weigh.

A widow came with copper coins And offered them in praise.
They were the last she had to give Or save for darker days.

When Jesus saw her costly gift And knew she had no more,
He praised a love that spared not self And called her rich, though poor.

At last He brought His offering And laid it on a tree;
There gave Himself, His life, His love For all humanity.

Lord, help us all, with You, to yield Whatever love demands
And freely give, as You have giv'n With open hearts and hands.

HYMN #907 "God Himself Is Present"

God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him, God is in His temple;
All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

God Himself is present; Hear the harps resounding:
See the hosts the throne surrounding. "Holy, holy, holy!"
Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear To us here; Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.

(7)

Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit. Like the holy angels,
Worshipping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your
mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you
and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son,
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #965 "God Bless Our Native Land"

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies; On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator
Gideon International Presenters

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender Jr.
Pat Mundstock, Bob Woller, Pam Akey
April Dela Cotera, Cross Foti, Amber Hren
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller
Saturday: Colonel Arthur Cernohous
Sunday: Doug Windle