

Sunday, November 11, 2017
25th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“Hyfrydol”

Gregg Sewell

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who calls us into an everlasting hope,
who guides us to springs of the water of life,
who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.*

C **Amen!**

P *One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against
God and one another.*

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P *O God, our merciful redeemer,*

C **we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.**

We fail to see you in our neighbor’s face.

We turn our ears from voices that cry out.

We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.

**In your great mercy, forgive our sin
and strengthen us for service to all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

P *In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for † his sake,
God forgives you all your sin.
Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad,
beloved people of God.*

C **Amen!**

***GATHERING SONG**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW 631

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

***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.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

"For the Fruit of All Creation" vs. 1 and 3

ELW 679

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,

thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

***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!**

ANTHEM

“title”

composer

Phil Lewis, harmonica

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.

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.

Reflection

Why did Elijah go to Zarephath? (For the beginning of this story, read 1 Kings 16:29-17:7) Note that Elijah is a refugee, escaping from the land of the king who wants to kill him. Who does he meet when he gets to Zarephath? (verse 10) What does he ask for? (verses 10-11) Why is the widow reluctant to give him bread? (verse 12) What does Elijah say to her in response? (verses 13-14) What happens? (verses 15-16) How does the widow show faith? What do you think would have happened to her and her son if she had not fed Elijah? What do you think would have happened to Elijah if she had not fed him? Who was the source of the food that they ate? Who is the source of the food that we eat? I think it’s easy to forget this. I go to the grocery

store and buy the food that we eat, or we go to the restaurant and pay for a meal. As you think about where your food comes from, remember the grocers who bring the food to where we can get it; the truckers/trains/ships/planes that bring the food to the grocery store; the people who turn the crops and animals into food we can eat; the farmers and gardeners who plant the seeds and do all they need to do to get it to grow; the people who harvest what we eat; and all those I've left out of this chain. The sun; the rain; the soil... With all of those people working to bring us food, why should we thank God for our food?

Psalm 146

¹Hal- | lelujah!

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 re- | turn 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 promis- | es 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!

Reflection

Why does the psalmist tell us to praise the Lord? (Hallelujah literally means "praise the Lord!") The story that our first reading is just a part of recounts the helplessness of the king who thought he could make anything happen. What happens if we put our trust in those who govern us? (verses 3-4) If we can't count on our government, who can we count on? (verses 5-6) How is our God, the God of Jacob, unlike those who rule us, who can promise us things and often can't deliver? What are the Lord's priorities in ruling us? (verses 7-9) What is our responsibility, as those whose only hope is in the Lord, to elect people to govern us who share the priorities of the God of Jacob? How long will those people last, good or bad? How long will God's reign last? (verse 10)

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.

Reflection

Where is Christ now? (verse 24) What is he doing there? How is Christ different from those who govern us, whether religious leaders—like the high priest—or government leaders? (verse 25) How does Christ deal with sin, unlike the high priest, or the leaders of our government? (verse 26) Although Jesus was a mortal, how is he different from other mortals, even those who want to help us? (verses 27-28) What has happened to our sin, through Christ? What will happen as Christ comes again? How has Christ come to you? (I invite you to think of your baptism!) In what ways are we eagerly waiting for Christ, who has come, and who is coming?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Celtic Alleluia”

ELW 174

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

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.

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.”

Reflection

What does Jesus have to say about the scribes? What do they want to seem like? (verses 38-39) What do they in fact do? (verse 40) If they were first praying Psalm 146, and following what the God of Jacob does, what would they do instead? Who does Jesus point out, in verses 41-43) The offering probably goes to keep up the temple and pay the scribes, priests, and high priest and other temple officials good money for banquets, long robes, etc. In what way is she like the widow in our first reading? Who is her faith in? I know for sure that we (speaking for

*Jim and myself) do not put in the offering everything we have. Should we? Why or why not?
How do we live out or faith in God?*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Eugene Lickenbrock

TEMPLE TALK

Misty Coyle

SERMON

"Praise or Lament?"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Make Me a Servant" (sing twice)

**Make me a servant,
humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up
those who are weak.
And may the prayer of
my heart always be:
Make me a servant,
make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

***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.**

***PRAYER SONG**

"Change My Heart, O God" (refrain only)

ELW 801

**Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

O God, preserve your church from empty piety. Stir up our will to act with mercy and compassion. Keep our bishops, pastors, teachers, and all who proclaim your good news strong in faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Provide all living things with sufficient food and clean water. Make us ever mindful of the farmers and laborers who supply us with food and open our hands to share what we have received. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Awaken our nation to care for veterans and others who have experienced the stress and trauma of war or other military conflicts. Inspire us to promote the well-being of those who have put themselves in the service of others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bow down to meet those who are trampled. Greet them with mercy and give new life to those who feel overwhelmed or broken by discrimination, grief, or illness *especially Jim, Lisa and her baby Lara, Dorothy*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless the ministries in our community that reach out to people who are unnoticed or neglected. Give us a common vision of justice that eliminates hunger, greed, and self-righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bind us together with the saints of every time and place until we join them around your throne. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior, all the day long:
 this is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
 visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
 angels descending bring from above
 echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
 I in my Savior am happy and blest,
 watching and waiting, looking above,
 filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior, all the day long:
 this is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Creator God,*

C you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

C And also with you.

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C We lift them to the Lord.

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

P *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**

**Holy, holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *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.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Gathered by the light in our hearts, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

C **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Hunger no more. Thirst no more. All are welcome to the banquet of life.*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.*

G Amen!

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Sovereign God,*

G *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!*

***BENEDICTION**

P *The love of God surround you;
the grace of ✠ Christ release you;
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,
now and forevermore.*

G Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

ELW 538

The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. *Repeat*

The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,

to do your will today. *Repeat*

***DISMISSAL**

P *Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God!**