

Prelude

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn

“Gather Us In”

Hymn No.532

Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise

“This is the Feast”

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Prayer of the Day

(Together) **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

Teaching Moment

Cherub Choir

“God, We Thank You”

11:00 a.m.

Children’s Sermon

First Lesson

1 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. *(After the reading:)* **The word of the Lord.** R/ Thanks be to God.

Reading Psalm 146 Responsively (Lector and People)

¹Hallelujah!

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 return 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 promises 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!

Gospel Acclamation

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the worlds of eternal life. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel**Mark 12:38-44**

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ 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." *(Spoken after the reading)* The Gospel of the Lord. **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor David Echelbarger

Hymn of the Day

“God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Hymn No.771

Commissioning of Couriers

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.

(After each petition:) Lord, in your mercy, ... **hear our prayer.**

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 the Lord be with you always.

R/ And also with you.

MEAL

Choir Anthem

“Amazing Grace”

Arr. Bruce Stevenson (8:30 a.m.)

Offering

Offering Prayer

(Together) **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.**

Great Thanksgiving

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Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal.....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

Traditional page 154
Right hand column

Invitation

Goodness is stronger than evil. Life is stronger than death. Taste the goodness and life of God. All are welcome.

Lamb of God

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Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray.

Distribution Hymns

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”
“Eat This Bread”

Hymn No.484
Hymn No.472
(repeated)

Blessing

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

R/ Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **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.**

SENDING

Benediction

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 Hymn

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

Hymn No.763

DismissalGo in peace. Christ is with you. Serve the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God****Postlude**

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