

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## *Introduction*

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.

## *God's Generosity Brings New Life*

As we cross a busy street, a stranger's cry of "WATCH OUT!" will certainly send our heart racing. Such an outburst may not be what we expect to hear, but it is the warning needed for us to get out of the way of an approaching threat. Jesus catches our attention with a similar word today: "Beware." Beware the violence of a system that devours widows' houses while hiding behind prayers and piety; there is danger here! But this is not the only relationship Jesus urges his followers to pay attention to today. He also invites them to be aware of how one widow in their community is responding; she gives—and gives generously. What might that mean for us?

God gives generously too. We often talk about God's generosity being rooted in God's love for us. From the moment we were baptized, we have been reminded of such love that goes with us through death and into the new life God brings. This love takes seriously all the things that tear apart our lives and world—and pays attention to where healing and repair might take hold.

God is always rooting for us, and we trust that Christ's resurrection life will bring us through hardships when death has done its worst. What a gift it is to be gathered into the worshiping community week after week, to again be centered around Christ's table and its generous promises of grace that renew us and make us whole: "The body of Christ, given for you; the blood of Christ, shed for you." This is generosity! This is new life!

Yet we do not stay at the table. We are sent from it, together. Where do we go from here? Where might we share such grace and love this week? Perhaps not only "Beware" but also "Be aware" are our invitations to generosity as Jesus draws our attention to all the important relationships around us.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pr. Larry Donner*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Hungry*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Hungry, I come to you  
For I know you satisfy.

I am empty,  
But I know your love  
Does not run dry.  
And so I wait for you,  
So I wait for you.

**(Refrain - All)**

**I'm falling on my knees,  
Offering all of me.  
Jesus, you're all  
This heart is living for.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Broken, I run to you  
For your arms are open wide.

I am weary,  
But I know your touch  
Restores my life.  
And so I wait for you,  
So I wait for You.

**(Refrain - All)**

**I'm falling on my knees,  
Offering all of me.  
Jesus, you're all  
This heart is living for.**

**I'm falling on my knees,  
Offering all of me.  
Jesus, you're all  
This heart is living for.**

(Music Ministers)

So I wait for you, so I wait for you.  
So I wait for you, so I wait for you.

(Refrain - All/Music Ministers)

**I'm falling on my knees,  
Offering all of me.  
Jesus, you're all  
This heart is living for.**

**I'm falling on my knees,  
Offering all of me.  
Jesus, you're all  
This heart is living for.**

**Jesus, you're all  
This heart is living for.  
Jesus, you're all  
This heart is living for.**

### **OPENING LITANY**

Children of God, take a deep breath.

Breathe in the goodness of God's abundance all around you.

**God's abundance is enough for all that we need.**

Think of all the things our society calls abundance.

Ever-growing bank accounts, possessions galore, status and notoriety—  
what are these things compared to God's abundance?

**God's abundance is enough for all that we need.**

God's abundance notices the poor, the downtrodden, those whose labor and unmet needs fill  
the coffers of corporations and those who are wealthy beyond measure.

**God's abundance is enough for all that we need.**

How, then, will you offer yourself up to God? Like the Pharisees or the widow?

**We will give as people who trust in God, because God's abundance is enough for all that  
we need.**

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)  
Everyone needs compassion,  
Love that's never failing;  
Let mercy fall on me.  
Everyone needs forgiveness,  
The kindness of a Saviour,  
The hope of nations.

**(Refrain - All)**  
**Saviour, he can move the mountains.**  
**My God is mighty to save,**  
**He is mighty to save.**  
**Forever, Author of salvation,**  
**He rose and conquered the grave,**  
**Jesus conquered the grave.**

**(Verse 2 - All)**  
**So take me as you find me,**  
**All my fears and failures.**  
**Fill my life again.**  
**I give my life to follow**  
**Everything I believe in.**  
**Now I surrender.**

**(Refrain - All)**  
**Saviour, he can move the mountains.**  
**My God is mighty to save,**  
**He is mighty to save.**  
**Forever, Author of salvation,**  
**He rose and conquered the grave,**  
**Jesus conquered the grave.**

**(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)**  
Shine your light, and let the whole world see.  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King:  
Jesus.  
**Shine your light and let the whole world see.**  
**We're singing**  
**For the glory of the risen King.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save,  
He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save,  
He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.**

**(All)**

**Shine your light, and let the whole world see.  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King:  
Jesus.  
Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King.**



*One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)*

**(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)**

Higher than the mountains that I face.  
Stronger than the power of the grave,  
Constant in the trial and the change,  
One thing remains, one thing remains.  
Your love, your love, your love will never change.

**(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)**

On and on and on and on it goes.  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.  
And I never, ever have to be afraid.  
One thing remains, one thing remains.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

**(Verse 3 - All)**

**On and on and on and on it goes.  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.  
And I never, ever have to be afraid.  
One thing remains, one thing remains.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

**(Music Ministers/All)**

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love.  
In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:  
Your love.**

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
By the power of your great love.  
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart  
From your great love, your love.**

**(Final Verse - Music Ministers)**

**Higher than the mountains that I face.  
Stronger than the power of the grave,  
Constant in the trial and the change,  
One thing remains, one thing remains:  
Your love.**

---

*I Give You My Heart*

(Verse - Music Ministers)

This is my desire: to honour you.  
Lord, with all my heart, I worship you.  
All I have within me, I give you praise.  
All that I adore is in you.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.  
I live for you alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,  
Lord have your way in me.**

(Verse - Music Ministers)

This is my desire: to honour you.  
Lord, with all my heart, I worship you.  
All I have within me, I give you praise.  
All that I adore is in you.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.  
I live for you alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,  
Lord have your way in me.**

**Lord, I give you my heart, I give you my soul.  
I live for you alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,  
Lord have your way in me.**



## **CONFESSION**

It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against evil.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us now confess our sin.

**O Christ, you praised the gift of the widow, who had so little and gave it all. Forgive us, O Christ, for turning our eyes away from people who are trapped in poverty. Forgive us, O Christ, for turning our resources into reasons for pride or greed. Forgive us, O Christ, and by your forgiveness, teach us to follow in your way of generosity.**

## **FORGIVENESS**

These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation. **Amen.**

## **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.**

## **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## 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.*

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." 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." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 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." 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. 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." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. 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.

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

## PSALM

**Psalms 146**

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)*

Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps promises forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The LORD shall reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## **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.*

A reading from the book of Hebrews.

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. 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; 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. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, 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.

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

## **\*\* 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.*

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 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. 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.**

## YOUTH MESSAGE

### MESSAGE

*Pr. Larry Donner*

#### \*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
**he descended into hell.**

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 THE COMMUNITY

#### GATHERING OF GIFTS

#### OFFERTORY

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, **you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. Amen.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

*For those of you communing at home or in the pews.*

## **COMMUNION** - *Receiving the Lord's Tangible Presence*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond **Amen**.*

**Communion Statement** ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

*NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.*

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.*

## **\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING

## \*\* BLESSING

The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## \*\* SENDING HYMN

*Everyday*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

What to say, Lord?  
It's you who gave me life,  
And I can't explain  
Just how much you mean to me  
Now that you have saved me, Lord.  
I give all that I am to you,  
That everyday I can  
Be a light that shines your name.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Everyday, Lord,  
I'll learn to stand upon your Word,  
And I pray that I,  
I may come to know you more,  
That you would guide me  
In every single step I take,  
That everyday I can be your  
Light unto the world.

(Refrain - All)

**Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**Everyday, Lord,  
I'll learn to stand upon your Word,  
And I pray that I,  
I may come to know you more,  
That you would guide me  
In every single step I take,  
That everyday I can be your  
Light unto the world.**

(Refrain - All)

Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.

Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.

(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)

It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.

It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.

It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.

It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.

(Final Refrain - All / Music Ministers)

Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.

Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you -

*Solo:*

It's you I live for everyday.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

*Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.**

**Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**  
**Make a commitment to not only worship each week**  
**but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation**  
**and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

**NOTES:**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397 Monday, November 11, 2024**

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

### **Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855 Monday, November 11, 2024**

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22920.

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.