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Mark 12:42-44

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2024 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION

“WHAT’S KEEPING US HERE?”

“This is what the Lord says to you: Do not be afraid or discouraged- For the battle is not yours but God’s.” 2 Chronicles 20:15

The answer to this question may seem obvious: Our faith in God, the Father, our Saviour Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Because of that we want to be fed by Him through Word and Sacrament, praise Him, worship Him and thank Him. We also want to grow in our faith to live it out, spreading His message to others.

In an ever-changing world with so many challenges, let us make 2024 a year to use the different talents and abilities God has given us to make our church a welcoming place for all. Working together in love because He first loved us! Remembering and trusting: He will be with us and guide us!

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ.

Talk to Pastor John today.



**A BRIEF SELF-EXAMINATION
BEFORE THE CELEBRATION OF
THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- ~ I recognize that I fall short of God's expectations of me, and I humbly confess to Him all my sins, and sincerely repent of them.
- ~ I believe and confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord and He died for the forgiveness of all my sins. Jesus is the only Saviour from sin, death and the power of the devil.
- ~ I am reconciled to anyone who would have anything against me to the best of my abilities.
- ~ I believe that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ my Saviour are REALLY present in, with, and under the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, and to strengthen my union with Him and fellow believers.
- ~ With God's help, I intend to amend my sinful life and live a life of service to Him through regular worship, sacrificial giving and thankful living.

Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C) congregations practice close(d) communion, (*current communicant members of this congregation and those sister congregations in altar fellowship with us*), believing that the Bible encourages unity in belief for those receiving the sacrament together.

Other guests wishing to join our confession and receive this Holy Sacrament or to inquire about our beliefs further are asked to meet with the pastor prior to communing for the first time.

For those NOT communing, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you want a blessing only by placing your arms across your chest.

Pentecost 25 ~ November 10, 2024

As We Gather

As the liturgical year is coming to its end, God our Father gives us great encouragement that our salvation and deliverance from sin and sorrow is complete because of the forgiveness won for us by the blood of Jesus, the one and only sacrifice for your sin and the source of daily cleansing, faith, hope, confidence, and love. This faith is certain and full of hope even if your current circumstances would have you think otherwise. As God provided for the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17), so was the widow's offering (Mark 12) an expression of confident faith in God's promised salvation. No clearer picture can be given of the certainty of hope in Christ our Savior than in the letter to the Hebrews as it tells of Christ's once-for-all sacrifice that not only forgives but takes away all sin and supplies us with newness of life by His life-giving body and blood all our days!

WELCOME AND SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

Opening Hymn

732 All Depends on Our Possessing

***1 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.***

***2 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.***

***3 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.***

*4 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.*

*5 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.*

*6 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.*

Invocation and Opening Sentences Psalm 122:1; Hebrews 9:15

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

P: I was glad when they said to me,

C: "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

P: Christ Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant,

C: so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Confession and Absolution

P: Scripture says, "under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. . . . But Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." We prepare to receive forgiveness and cleansing from God our Saviour by confessing our need and repentance of our sin.

C: Lord God, we come before You today seeking Your mercy and grace for the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing of our lives. We confess to You all our sins, both the wrongs we have done, as well as the love we have withheld, and the good we have failed to do for others. Forgive us Lord, have mercy on us.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast (LSB 155)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honour, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

4 Blessing, honour, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

5 For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: *We pray*, Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Grant us to firmly 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.

C: **AMEN**

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 17:8-16

(The widow of Zarephath)

Then the word of the LORD came to him, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'" And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 9:24-28

(Christ, the sacrifice once for all)

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 12:38-44

(The widow's offering)

In his teaching [Jesus] said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in 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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN

Children's Talk (Zion)

Hymn of the Day 787 The Temple Rang with Golden Coins

- 1 The temple rang with golden coins
The rich in bright array
Contributed from gleaming hoards
Their scales could scarcely weigh.*
- 2 A widow came with copper coins
And offered them in praise.
They were the last she had to give
Or save for darker days.*
- 3 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.*

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

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

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Text: © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006118

Sermon

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!*

Prayers of the Church

- P: Lord, graciously hear our prayers for Your whole church everywhere in the world, especially for those who hold steadfast to Your Word and promises. Sustain pastors with Your grace that they may deliver Your Word of salvation to all. Keep all Your people in peace and unity of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Father, because Jesus has borne our sins and put them away by His once-for-all sacrifice on the cross, continue to be our shelter from the storms of life and our eternal home. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Father, give all nations, and especially our own country, trustworthy leaders who look to You for Your guidance in all they do. Make their goal to provide justice, peace, and freedom to all whom they have been called to serve. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Jesus, as we all live out our lives in a world disfigured by sin, sickness, and death, give to all who call on You for help in times of trouble, anxiety, or illness Your healing presence. We especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Be with those who attend to those in need with Your strength, wisdom, and compassion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, we rejoice with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. We thank you for the blessings of the past, and entrust them to your future care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, graciously receive our prayers, O God. Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **AMEN**

+ CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER +

Luther's Admonition to the Communicants

P: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the Testament.

LW p. 197-198

Sanctus

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy and righteous.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns Of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise you, with the saints and angels
Holy, blessed through all eternity.***

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

Words of Institution

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: AMEN

Agnus Dei

*O Lamb of God, we pray: Take all our sins away --
Our faith increase.*

*Have mercy on us all, Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.*

Distribution of Communion

Distribution Hymn 620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

*1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
"Come and taste the blessed feast."*

*2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.*

*3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.*

*4 God descends with heav'nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.*

*5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.*

*6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.*

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960

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Distribution Hymns

Post-Communion Prayer

P: *Let us pray.* Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **AMEN**

Closing Hymn

527 O Saviour, Precious Saviour

*1 O Saviour, precious Saviour, Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favour, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.*

*2 O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously hast wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.*

*3 In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow'r divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.*

*4 O grant the consummation Of this our song above
In endless adoration And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee, Our Saviour and our King!*

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA Organist: Bill Irwin
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

ZION Organist: Joanne Maguire
Altar Guild: M. Nicholson / R. Luckhart
Elders: Ken Rader, Jim Hayter, Tom Hayter,
Randy Bowers
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789
Children's Talk: Peter Datars

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