

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY + 19 SEPTEMBER 2021



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you. **To all of you who are visiting** our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. **If you are looking for a church home** and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

A Note From the Organist

Seth Bingham was an influential composer and church musician. From 1913 until 1951 he was organist at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. This setting of “Rock of Ages” is from a set of 12 hymn preludes published in 1942. Bingham exploits the colors of the orchestral organ, including the clarinet, harp, flutes, and strings.

Wilbur Held taught at Ohio State for many years. Upon his retirement he moved to Southern California, settling in Claremont, continuing to play and compose almost until the end of his life. This setting of “Duke Street” alternates a ritornello pattern on the choir organ with the hymn melody played on the principal chorus of the great organ.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
 All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 86:1, 7, 12-13; antiphon: vv. 3, 5

Be gracious to me, | O Lord,
for to you do I cry | all the day.*

**For you, O Lord, are good and for- | giving,*
abounding in steadfast love to all who call up- | on you.**

Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,
for I am poor and | needy.*

**In the day of my trouble I call up- | on you,*
for you | answer me.**

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with | my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name for- | ever.*

For great is your steadfast | love toward me;*
you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.

Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

*Be gracious to me, | O Lord,**
for to you do I cry | all the day.

For you, O Lord, are good and for- | giving,*
abounding in steadfast love to all who call up- | on you.

Kyrie

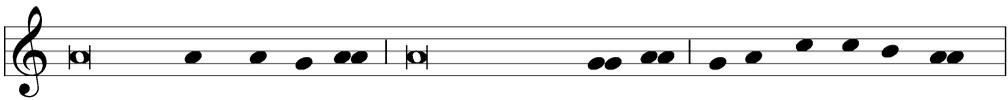
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



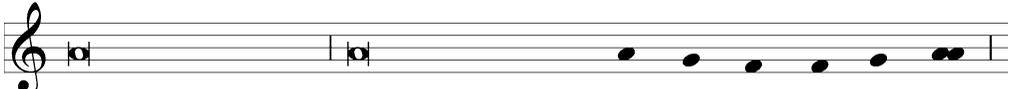
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



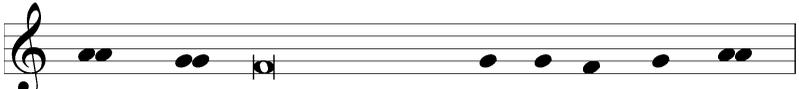
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



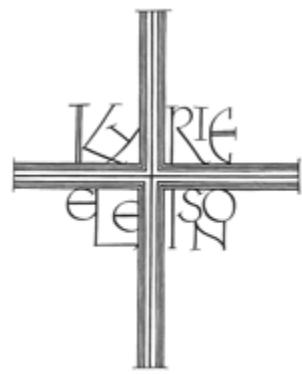
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.



This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - - men.

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 17:17–24

¹⁷After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” ¹⁹And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” ²¹Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” ²²And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” ²⁴And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 102:15–16

**Nations will fear the name | of the LORD,*
and all the kings of the earth will fear your | glory.
For the LORD builds up | Zion;*
he appears in his | glory.**

Epistle

Ephesians 3:13–21

¹³So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:11-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹¹Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, **“Do not weep.”** ¹⁴Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, **“Young man, I say to you, arise.”** ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” ¹⁷And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 worshiped 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.**

Sit

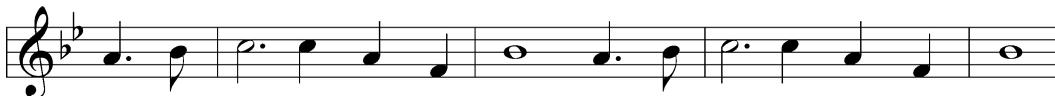


Hymn of the Day

761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "Lord, have mercy."

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For confidence in Christ, who is risen to put an end to death, that we would not lose heart in the face of sorrow, that the Spirit would strengthen us with His power, and that we would know the love of Christ, that through Him we will no longer weep, let us pray to the Lord:

P For all laborers and their protection, that their work would be done not from self-interest but in love for their neighbors; and for the unemployed and underemployed, that God would sustain them and bring their gifts to full use for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For those whose work is in media, that all communication may be accomplished in the light of truth and be pleasing in the sight of God, whose Word is truth, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For widows, shut-ins and those who live alone, that as God gave aid to the widows of Zarephath and Nain, so He would also provide faithful friends and companions to the lonely, encouraging them in faith and love, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who are ill or receiving treatments, especially *Alice, Carmen, Charlotte, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, James, Jason and all California Fire Fighters, Jamsetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Sabrina, Susie*, that they would be relieved of discomfort and granted healing and recovery according to God's will, and so glorify Him in all things, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who receive the Sacrament this day, that they would rejoice at Christ's visitation with His body and blood and receive the gift of sins forgiven in true faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** 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 forever.
- C** Amen.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-

va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the

courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.

G And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

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."

Proclamation of Christ

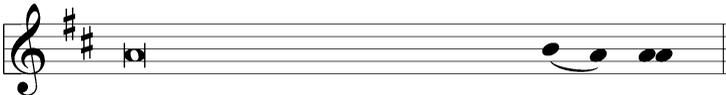
- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 180



- P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this



wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,



He saved us from the e - vil foe.
And with the wine the blood He shed.
His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

- 5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.
- 6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.
- 7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.
- 8 "For what purpose was My dying
If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food
If you yourself were pure and good?"
- 9 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.

10 Let this food your faith so nourish
 That its fruit of love may flourish
 And your neighbor learn from you
 How much God's wondrous love can do.

Text (sts. 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9) and tune: Public domain

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Distribution Hymn

588 Jesus Loves Me



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
 He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -

joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P 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.

C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183

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 A - men.

Hymn to Depart

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Acknowledgments

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✚ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✚

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 32

+ Today's altar flowers are given in celebration of the 45th wedding anniversary of Leon and Gayle Tarr on September 18, and in thanksgiving for the many blessings bestowed on them throughout the years.

LWML Message

LWML Hygiene Kit Assembly for LSS

+ NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, WE NEED YOUR HELP to assemble hygiene kits for Lutheran Social Services, Long Beach. The LWML has received enough donations of supplies to make 50 or 60 kits for the needy in the Long Beach area. **Thank you for your donations! All who are willing and able, please meet in the assembly room after church** (and getting your coffee) to help assemble. It's quick and easy work with many hands, and cookies will be supplied to go along with your coffee! Thank you in advance. - Gayle Tarr & Royce Morton, LWML Co-Chairs

Synod Sentences for the Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

Jesus Calls forth Life from Death

A large funeral procession carrying the only son of a widow is confronted by another large procession, Jesus and His followers. Death and Life meet face to face at the gate of the city (Luke 7:11-17). Filled with compassion, Jesus comes into direct contact with our mortality in order to overcome it. He touches the coffin and speaks His creative words of life, *"Young man, I say to you, arise."* Jesus does what is neither expected nor requested. For through Christ, God the Father *"is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think"* (Eph. 3:14-21). Jesus bore our death in His body that we may share in His resurrection. Even as Elijah stretched himself out three times over the Zarephath woman's son (2 Kings 17:17-24), God stretched Himself out over us in the threefold application of His name in the baptismal water, breathing new and everlasting life into us. *"To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

Lutherans For Life Thoughts for the Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

In both the Old Testament and Gospel readings we see the ultimate miracle, sons raised from the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24, Luke 7:11-17). Yet they present but a tiny picture of what will happen because God raised His Son from the dead! All the dead in Christ will be raised to eternal life. Death is a defeated enemy!

Prayer: Lord, may Your defeat of death give us courage as we confront a culture of death. Amen.

Stewardship Thought for the Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

Ephesians 3:14-15 – “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.” We don’t call our heavenly Father by that name by analogy to our earthly fathers. It’s the other way around – God sets the pattern and image for earthly fathers to follow. God is the real and true Father. He is kind, loving, strong, faithful, generous, righteous, and self-sacrificing. Knowing this Father is the basis for growing into His image, which is the goal of our sanctification.

A Prayer For The Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to be made flesh, that by His death He might atone for our sins and deliver us from eternal death: We pray, confirm in our hearts the hope that our Lord Jesus Christ, who with but a word raised the widow’s son, in like manner will raise us on the last day and grant us eternal life; through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

An Excerpt from Luther’s Writings

“This and like miracles God does that the heart may learn how it should be disposed to Him and what it may expect from Him. As now this wife was fully convinced that there was no hope for her son, that it was impossible for her to receive Him back alive again; yea, if one had said to her: Before an hour your son will be alive again, she would have regarded it as impossible and said: It is more possible for the heavens to fall than for my son to live again. Behold, here comes God before she looks around, and does what she never dared to ask of Him, as it is impossible, and He restores her son alive to her again. “But why does God do this? He permits man to fall so deeply into danger and anxiety, until no help or advice is within reach, and still He desires that we should not doubt, but trust in Him Who out of an impossible thing can make something possible, and make something out of nothing. If you are so deep in sin that your heart denies you all grace and the mercy of God and makes you think there is no hope for you, as many consciences are ensnared by such anxiety and distress; then turn about and look here how friendly and graciously God allows Himself to be pictured by Christ in this Gospel; that you may observe that He means it well with you from His heart; and that He is not here either to condemn or excommunicate you, but to preserve your soul forever. For this purpose, such

miracles and wonderful works are held before our eyes, and they also serve to the end, that we may see. As God here helps this widow in a temporal way through Christ, so He will help us not only bodily, but much more spiritually, and our soul forever, if we only put our hope in Him.” *This sermon is from the Church Postil of Martin Luther for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday.*

A Snippet From 1517

The Old Testament lesson for this Sunday is from the first book of Kings. The text is I Kings 17:8-16 and details the account of Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath and the continuous supply of flour and oil. This is a very heart-warming account that is often used as an example of trust and faith—the Widow’s trust and faith in the promise of Elijah. The pairing of this reading with the Mark 12 account of the widow’s mite leads one to this assumption. However, while there is this sub-motif within the text, there is a greater truth being exhibited.

As we note the greater context of the entire chapter 17 of I Kings, we will see how this account is sandwiched between Elijah telling King Ahab a drought would be coming upon the land by command of the LORD (vss. 1-7) and the account of Elijah raising the Widow of Zarephath’s son from the dead (vss. 17-24). This is an extremely important chapter and it speaks to the motif of DEATH and RESURRECTION in a powerful way.

In the first section, the prophecy there will be no dew or rain until the word of Elijah brings it about, which thus ensures drought and famine, is a strong Death and Resurrection theme in Scripture. The Hebrews have always seen drought as the dying of the land which then causes the dying of the body. See Genesis 47:13-19 in the account of Joseph and the famine/drought in Egypt. Dew, rain, and water are all considered to be life-giving and they resurrect the land from death and cause the sprouting of new life. In the third section, obviously, the dead son of the Widow being raised to life by Elijah after he stretches himself on the body three times not only speaks of death and resurrection directly, it also blatantly points to the One who spent three days in the tomb before being raised from the dead. It is also important to note that the famine/drought lasts three years!

Now as we consider the second section of our text for today, the Widow of Zarephath is prepared to die from the famine after her and her son’s last supper. But, Elijah keeps this from happening—indeed he saves her life, raises her from certain death—by giving flour and oil for as long as the famine continues. This is a powerful theme in this chapter and there are many connecting points throughout Scripture which speak the same message of Death and Resurrection—most important, of course, is the message of The One who has saved us from death and the grave and gives us new life—baptismal life and everlasting life. Here is our Christological basis for preaching this text. *Jeffrey Pulse, 2018*