
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“GIVING”

MARCH 29, 2020

AS WE GATHER...All of us have something to offer. Today we are reminded of this truth as we read about the widow in Mark 12. When Jesus observes the poor widow depositing two small copper coins, He says, “She out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” How is it that we live more generous lives—even giving when we don’t have much? We remember that God was first generous with us giving His all—His one and only Son so that we could live.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: “*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*”

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before thee, Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav’n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine!

FIRST LESSON:

Acts 4:32-35

“The disciples had everything in common.”

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

GOSPEL:

Mark 12:41-44

“The widow in the temple”

⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ 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. ⁴⁴ 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.”

HOMILY:

“Which is really better: to give or to receive?”

CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the
Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**L: Grant grace, we pray, in mercy, Lord. We pray for Your kingdom on
earth. Around the globe may there be an increase of the Word of life.
May the Spirit's power be made evident in the Church, as it reaches
out to all parts of the world, bringing the good news of sins forgiven
through Christ to every place. Gracious God, in mercy,**

C: hear our prayer.

**L: Grant love, we pray, in mercy, Lord. We pray for our household of
faith, for our families, and for our neighborhoods, that we may be filled
with a sense of appreciation for all Your good gifts. As we are blessed
by the care of others, so may we bless them with care in Your name.
Loving God, in mercy,**

C: hear our prayer.

L: Grant health, we pray, in mercy, Lord. We pray at this time for the sick, the shut-in, and all who this day are in need of our intercession, (especially...), that their prayers may be soon answered and that they may be supported by God's people with care in the name of Christ. Healing God, in mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Grant blessing, we pray, in mercy, Lord. As we remember all those who are experiencing increased anxiety, fear and trouble in these challenging days, may they know of Your protection in times of danger and trial. Guide and bless each of one of us to find our rest in You. Ever-living God, in mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: 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.
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.

C: Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

L: Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE