

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word ~ 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Remembrance Day Sunday

[* Indicates when the congregation is seated]
[**Bolded** section of text is for congregation to recite]
Music Director: Gloria Berg

Gathering

* Prelude

* Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship

Come, take your rest this day

Lord, free us from the stresses we have endured this week.

Come, put your minds at ease.

Lord, ease the burdens and frustrations of our lives.

Come. For this is the house of the Lord. It is here that you will find peace.

Praise and thanks be to God for giving us sanctuary. Amen.

* Children's Message

Loving God,

we thank you

for the blessings

that you have given us;

food to eat,

warm places to sleep,

and people who love us.

Teach us to share

the amazing gifts

that you have given to us

with those who need them.

Amen

Hymn (red) ELW 695 As Saints of Old

1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought
of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today firstfruits would bring,
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

- 2 A world in need now summons us
to labour, love, and give;
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;
all life in Christ made new.
- 3 In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

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Apostolic Greeting (p. 213)

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

Response: **And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise (p. 213-215)

Refrain

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

- 1 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *Refrain*
- 3 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Final Refrain

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to Gods' people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Lord, we have come to you this day bringing all that we have, our lives, our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows. We place these before you in faith and hope, knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us and blessing us. Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit, that we may find healing and comfort. Open our lives to the wondrous possibilities for service and joy that you offer to us. Ease our minds and spirits that we may hear the words of encouragement and peace this day. Amen.

* **Choir** 'In Flanders Fields' (Daley)

Word

* **First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16** (Good News Translation)

The First Readings is from first Kings, chapter 17:

⁸Then the LORD said to Elijah, ⁹"Now go to the town of Zarephath, near Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow who lives there to feed you." ¹⁰So Elijah went to Zarephath, and as he came to the town gate, he saw a widow gathering firewood. "Please bring me a drink of water," he said to her. ¹¹And as she was going to get it, he called out, "And please bring me some bread, too." ¹²She answered, "By the living LORD your God I swear that I don't have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a bit of olive oil in a jar. I came here to gather some firewood to take back home and prepare what little I have for my son and me. That will be our last meal, and then we will starve to death." ¹³"Don't worry," Elijah said to her. "Go on and prepare your meal. But first make a small loaf from what you have and bring it to me, and then prepare the rest for you and your son. ¹⁴For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "The bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil before the day that I, the LORD, send rain.'" ¹⁵The widow went and did as Elijah had told her, and all of them had enough food for many days. ¹⁶As the LORD had promised through Elijah, the bowl did not run out of flour nor did the jar run out of oil.

Response: Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Psalm 146 (sung responsively)**

Psalm 146 is sung responsively:

¹Hal- | lelujah!

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.

**⁴When they breathe their last, they re- | turn 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;

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in
them; who keeps promis- | es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to |
those who hunger. The LORD sets the | captive free.

**⁸The 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.

**¹⁰The LORD shall | reign forever, your God, O Zion,
throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

Gospel Acclamation (p. 216)

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

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁸ 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, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour 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. ⁴³ 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. 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."

Response: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Month (blue) ACS 1065 Can You Feel the Seasons turning

1 Can you feel the seasons turning,
winds and waves grown wild and strange?
Can you feel creation groaning,

fearful of the coming change:
icecaps melting, oceans rising,
homes and habitations lost?
Can you feel the seasons turning?
Can you count the bitter cost?

- 2 Can you hear the creatures crying—
lynx and otter, wolf and whale?
Can you hear the Spirit sighing
as her children grieve and fail?
Nature's poor, the first to suffer
pay the price of human greed.
Can you hear the creatures crying,
begging us to stop and heed?
- 3 Can you feel the seasons turning?
Storm clouds gather in the skies.
All around us signs of warning
bid us open frightened eyes.
Called by God to serve as stewards
till earth's garden greens and thrives,
can we learn in time to listen?
Can we turn and change our lives?

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2008 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

* **Message**

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours from God the loving parent, from Jesus Christ Amen.

November is an interesting month. I remember from my time in Germany that November always had a certain somberness about it. It usually was grey and uncomfortable, with a lot of cold and drizzly weather; and then there were all those rather sad days of commemoration: All Saints and all Souls, 'Buß- und Betttag', a Protestant day of repentance and prayer, Volkstrauertag, which is the equivalent of Remembrance Day in this country, and Ewigkeitssonntag – Eternity Sunday, on which the dead of the past year are remembered, kind of what we do here on All Saints Sunday. And on a personal note – most of my family members who are already diseased, passed away in November. So not quite a month to look forward to.

So far we had some cheer in those first days of November – last weeks Bazaar was a blast, the Sharing Place was fun and we have been blessed with extraordinary beautiful autumn days. Changing the clock and hit with all of a sudden dark early evenings only felt half as bad as it did in the past years, at least for me. Now there is a special day coming up tomorrow: November 11. This day is a special day of commemoration, and in more ways than you may think. November 11 is Remembrance Day, the day we remember those who

served and serve this country in the armed services. It is a day to honour and give thanks to those who risked their lives for the greater good, those who were injured in body, mind, or soul as they fought for their country.

November 11 is also St. Martin's day, which is celebrated in many places in Europe. I have wonderful memories of St. Martin's Day from when I was a child myself and when our oldest was little and we still lived in Germany: children go out in the dark evening hours, carrying paper lanterns, singing songs, and bringing light into the darkness, in memory and honour of St. Martin.

St. Martin lived in the 4th century A.D. He was born in what today is Hungary, served as a soldier in the Roman army, and had a conversion experience at age 18, which led him to become a monk and eventually the bishop of Tours in what today is modern day France. The legend of St. Martin you may have heard about is the legend of Martin and the beggar. Legend has it that Martin, the young soldier, encountered an almost naked beggar at the side of the road on a cold winter's night. Moved with pity, Martin took his overcoat, which he then cut in two with his sword, and gave it to the beggar – which is no small feat, if you consider the rather scanty uniform of a Roman soldier. That same night, Jesus appeared to Martin in a dream, wearing the half of the cloak Martin had given to the beggar. And Martin heard Jesus say to the angels, "Here is Martin, the Roman soldier who is not baptized; he has clad me."

Martin was baptized shortly afterwards, and eventually abandoned life as a soldier because he could not reconcile his faith in Christ with military violence. However, Saint Martin is the patron saint of the soldiers today – how very fitting as November 11 is also Remembrance Day.

We are not done yet with commemorations on November 11.

November 11 was also Martin Luther's baptism day. Luther was born on November 10, and, according to the custom in those days, baptized the day after and named after the patron saint of the day, which was Martin of Tours – St. Martin.

Now there is one common thread, a common theme, which connects all of these things. And in order to explore this common theme, let's look into the gospel we just heard.

The gospel story we heard is often called 'The Widow's Mite', and it is a story about ultimate sacrifice. Widows in Jesus' days were extremely vulnerable. According to the Judaic Law, a woman wasn't allowed to own property, and could not conduct business, or make any decisions for herself or her children. A woman needed patronage and protection: either through her husband, or her family. If a woman lost her husband, and she was lucky, she stayed with the family of her deceased husband, and ideally married one of her husband's relatives – that would be the case if she were of child bearing age and

hadn't given birth to any sons yet. Second best option, she returned to her own family. Worst option, she had nobody to fall back onto. Now we tend to think of a widow as an elderly woman, but theoretically the widow in today's gospel could be a very young woman. In fact, if you think about it, a widow in her middle age, which in those days was between about 25 and 35, was the most vulnerable – she'd probably already have kids, and would be too old to be remarried, and too young to have adult sons who would take care of her.

Because a widow wasn't allowed to own any property, or could not conduct business on her own, the temple scribes would act as a widow's custodian, and handle the sale of the deceased husband's property. Temptation must have been great for many of those powerful scribes to 'devour widows' houses' and cheat women out of their rightful share. To be a widow in those days was almost synonymous with being poor, and, interestingly enough, there is still a disproportionate share of widowed women in this country today who live near or below the poverty line.

Jesus attacks the practice of the temple to take advantage of widows, especially since, according to the Mosaic Law, widows and orphans were to be granted special protection. So, the message of today's gospel is twofold: firstly, Jesus' message is about justice. But then it is also about the whole-hearted devotion of this one poor widow putting in her two cents into the treasury of the temple. Jesus makes clear: this is all she has to live on. She entrusts it all to God. Like Martin, the saint, she could have easily divided her meager possessions, and given one coin to the temple, and could have kept one for herself, to buy bread for herself and her children, if she has any. But she's all in. No compromise. Total commitment.

November 11 is a day of commitment. Veterans offered their all in service to their country and their fellow people, risking their lives and often bearing visible and invisible wounds which take a toll on their health and their relationships. They were all in. No compromise. Total commitment.

St. Martin may have kept half of his cloak for himself in the beginning, but soon after surrendered his entire life to Christ, giving up worldly status and military honours for a life dedicated to God. He was all in. No compromise. Total commitment.

On November 11, 1483, an infant was baptized and named Martin; and, as every child, every person who is baptized, this infant and his life were entrusted to the grace of God. In baptism, we are all in. No compromise. Total commitment.

So, this is a day to think about commitment – and a day to think about our commitment as well. As I already mentioned, when we were baptized, we were committed or committed ourselves to the grace of God. Whenever we affirm our faith, as we do on our confirmation day, we commit ourselves anew to the grace of God and the community of saints. So

today, let's not only remember the commitments others have made – let us also remember our commitment to God, our commitment to God's church, and pray about: what does that mean for me? How can I show my commitment? How can I show that I am all in, all embraced by the grace and love of God, and all willing to live the vision of God's kingdom as it grows among us? How do we live our faith with our whole heart and body and soul? It has been pointed out by Bible scholars that the poor widow at the temple is not only a model of Christian faith and faithfulness – the widow also foreshadows Jesus' fate: wronged by the temple authorities, and yet willing to give it all. Jesus died on the cross. He is all in. No compromise. Total commitment to God the Father and all of humanity and creation.

So let us remember today all those who gave their all. And let us give thanks and praise to Christ who gave his all for the sake of us and all creation. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn (red) ELW 685 Take My Live, That I May Be

- 1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be

ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

Apostles' Creed (p. 217)

With the whole church we confess our Christian faith.

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 Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. 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.

Remembrance Day Prayer

Loving parent of all, remember your holy promise, and look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss. Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world. And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trumpet Solo 'The Last Post' (Brent Clarke)

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbours, the church, and all of creation. Each prayer petition ends with the response: 'Merciful God, receive our prayer'.

A brief silence.

Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for justice in our bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders, especially here in the Eastern Synod, the Grand River Ministry Area and at St. Luke's. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small, and strengthen us in our pursuit of climate justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation’s veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan, and pursue peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill, especially those who are on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts Accompany persons who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are in foster care, and those who live alone. Watch over and uphold them. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness. Bless our ministries that attend to basic needs of any who lack sufficient resources, that all may live with dignity. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew our prayer ministry. O God. You want your children to love each other and be concerned for each other’s well-being. We thank you for those of our friends in Christ who gather around our prayer box and lift up the urgent and last-minute petitions which someone concerned has placed in there, asking that prayers be made for them. Continue to bless our Prayer Box ministry. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Happy are those whose help was in you. We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace (p. 218)

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*** Offering**

Thanksgiving

Canticle of Thanksgiving (p. 219)

Refrain

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

- 1 Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O God of the universe;
just and true are your ways,
O Ruler of all the Nations.

Who can fail to honour you, Lord,
And sing the glory of your name?

Refrain

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

- 2 For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one
whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!

Refrain

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Thanksgiving for the Word (p. 220)

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (p. 221)

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn (red) ELW 441 Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand
amid the heav'nly throng;
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land
the new celestial song,
the new celestial song.
- 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come
and show himself as Lord,
and thousands meet in their new home
which Jesus has prepared,
which Jesus has prepared.

- 3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood
of joy and love and peace
will roll down over us with good
and blessedness and grace,
and blessedness and grace.
- 4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;
your love has made us free
to stand among the saints and sing
the glory that we see,
the glory that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. Composite. Text st. 1 © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Text sts. 2-4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude**

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