

Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 32

Sunday, November 8, 2009

Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Setting Three



First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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The Rev. Steven Woyen
Ruth Patrick
Tim Whitman
Chris Wood

*Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Office Secretary*



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.

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GATHERING

The GATHERING MUSIC: Meditation on “For The Fruit Of All Creation”

The CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism
In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen

Before God, our rock and our refuge,
let us keep silence, and then confess our sin.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**you know our failings better than we do;
our sins are revealed in the light of your face.
Our days and years pass by;
the things we trust fade like grass.
Be gracious to us, O God.
Guide us again to the water of life,
and renew in us the grace of holy baptism;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

You are all children of the light and of the day;
you are God's children now.
In the mercy of God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for his sake, God forgives you all your sin.
With all the faithful in heaven and on earth,
rejoice and be glad!
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his command and authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The GATHERING HYMN “As Saints of Old”

ELW 695

The GREETING

*The Pastor greets the assembly with the following words:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

The HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pp. 140-141

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

ELW p. 142

The assembly is seated

WORD

The FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:8-16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you. ¹⁰So 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." ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²But 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." ¹³Elijah 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. ¹⁴For 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." ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The 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.

The reading concludes

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The PSALMODY

Psalm 146



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 there¹ is no help.
**4When they breathe their last, they re-¹ turn to earth,
and in that day¹ their thoughts perish. Refrain**
⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the¹ LORD their God;
**6who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that¹ is in them;
who keeps promis-¹ es forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the¹ captive free.
**8The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who¹ are bowed down;
the LORD¹ loves the righteous. Refrain**
⁹The LORD cares¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way¹ of the wicked.

**10The LORD shall¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.¹ Hallelujah! Refrain**

The SECOND READING

Hebrews 9:24–28

²⁴For 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. ²⁵Nor 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; ^{26c}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. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸so 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.

The reading concludes

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands

The GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

The HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 12:38–44

³⁸As he 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 honor 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. ⁴³Then 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."

The CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The SERMON

Silence for reflection

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.

The HYMN OF THE DAY

"Take my life, that I may be"

ELW 583

The CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

The PRAYERS & PEACE

ELW p. 143

MEAL

The SENIOR CHOIR: "Unidos en la Fiesta" (Hymn #498 in your hymnals)

The assembly stands

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931
 Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949
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The GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 144

The SANCTUS

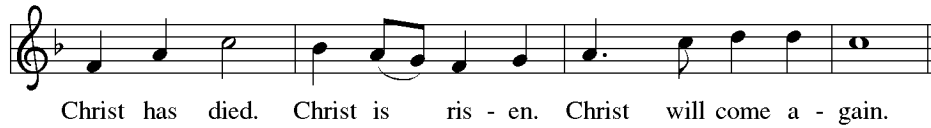
ELW p. 144

The THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (VIII)

God of our weary years,
 God of our silent tears...*The prayer continues*

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



The prayer continues and concludes...

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



The LORD'S PRAYER (Right column)

ELW p. 145

The BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Feast with the Lord, who has swallowed up death forever.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated

The LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 146

The DISTRIBUTION

*Believing in the Real Presence of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices Eucharistic Hospitality. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. **The Sacrament is distributed by coming up the center aisle and moving to the far end of the rail. Please kneel as you are able.** Those who do not wish to receive the Sacrament may approach with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

“For the Fruit of all Creation”

ELW 679

The assembly stands.

The POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Let us pray... At your table, O God, we have been made new.

Our mourning and crying and pain pass away,
and we see the glory of your presence among us.

Unite us with this vision,
and make us into your holy people,
one in the body of Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

The BLESSING

The SENDING HYMN

“Jesus shall reign”

ELW 434

The SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

The SENDING MUSIC: “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

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Acknowledgements

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Assisting Minister

Lynnea Thomas

Lector

Chuck Garber

Ushers:

Rick Lautenschleger, Tom Lautenschleger, Josh Thomas

Altar Guild:

Pam Bixler, Robyn Burkett, Carol Rouse

PRAYER CONCERNS—Judy Himes, Vivian Barr, Dr. Gene Hawk, and all nursing home residents.

The **Altar Flowers** are given by Bob & Alyce Snyder in honor of their 48th wedding anniversary.

The **Eternal Candle** is given by Marcia Wright in loving memory of her husband Rocky.



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

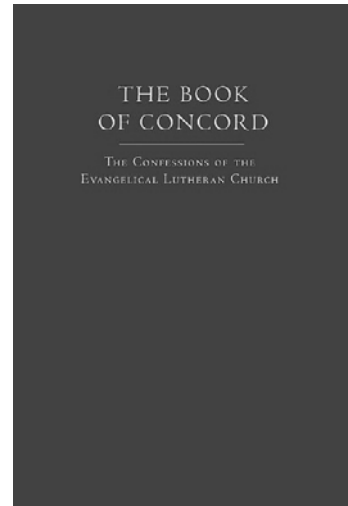
Bishop's Gathering with the Laity

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is inviting all laity who wish to have conversation about the 2009 Churchwide Assembly actions and the workings of the ELCA on **Sunday, November 15th, 3pm** at St. Paul, Bellville. If you wish to attend and voice your concerns about your church body please contact Pastor Steven.

What are Lutherans?

Pastor Steven has written an Adult Education class on The Book of Concord, the foundation documents of all Lutherans. It is currently being considered for publication. Now you have the opportunity to answer some of the questions that define Lutheran Christians:

- **Is there a difference between Lutherans and “Protestants?”** *Yes, the answers are in the Book of Concord!*
- **Why do we celebrate Communion every Sunday?** *The answer is in the Book of Concord.*
- **How do we live as Christians today?** *The answer is in the Book of Concord.*
- **What is the role of Christian Education?** *The answer is in the Book of Concord.*



With all the different Christian denominations and non-denominations, it is extremely important to know our identity as Lutheran Christians. Strasburg and Beach City now have an opportunity to learn the gift of *The Book of Concord* before other Lutherans.

Two times are available for this great study starting **Wednesday, November 4 @ 10am** and **Thursday, November 5 @ 7pm**. The “fun part” (?) of this class is you won’t need to commit a great length of time to this study of this exposition of the Holy Scriptures. You may come and go as you please.

A clipboard is being handed around in worship today to sign up for this course. There is no cost for your copy of *The Book of Concord* which is being paid for by an anonymous donor.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN (Week of 11/8—11/15)

Sunday	<u>Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 32</u> 9 AM—Beach City Service of the Word 10:15 AM—Beach City Christian Education 9:15 AM—Strasburg Christian Education 10:30 AM—Strasburg Holy Communion 11:30 AM—Catechism
Monday	9 AM—Beach City Quilters
Tuesday	9 AM—Busy Bee Quilters 7 PM—Strasburg Church Council
Wednesday	10 AM— <i>The Book of Concord</i> (Beach City) 7 PM—Strasburg Senior Choir (Choir room)
Thursday	9 AM—Beach City Quilters 7 PM— <i>The Book of Concord</i> (Strasburg)
Friday	No Scheduled Activities
Saturday	8 AM—Men’s Bible Study (Rosalie’s)
Sunday	<u>Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 33</u> 9 AM—Beach City Holy Communion 10:15 AM—Beach City Christian Education 9:15 AM—Strasburg Christian Education 10:30 AM—Strasburg Holy Communion 11:30 AM—Catechism 3 PM—Bishop’s Gathering with the Laity (St. Paul, Bellville)

All ministry is open to disciples in both Strasburg and Beach City congregations. The names “Strasburg” or “Beach City” denotes location



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

November 2, 2009

ELCA Resource Addresses 'Worship in Times of Public Health Concerns'

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The declaration of a national emergency has raised a number of questions across the United States about safely assembling for school and worship during the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Worship and Liturgical Resources answered many of those questions in a resource titled "Worship in Times of Public Health Concerns."

U.S. President Barack Obama signed an Oct. 24 proclamation that "the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic in the United States constitutes a national emergency." The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services had declared a public health emergency three times since April 26 in response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.



ELCA Worship and Liturgical Resources, part of the church's Office of the Presiding Bishop, issued the resource in April, shortly after the first declaration of an emergency.

"In times of anxiety about the spread of such pathogens as influenza, churches are advised to follow the advice of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) with regard to gatherings of people," the resource notes.

"At this time, it is not necessary to cancel worship services or stop gathering around the means of grace. However, worship leaders should take some time to be well informed of the situation in their local areas and to examine worship practices with regard to the spread of pathogens, perhaps making small changes that will help alleviate the anxiety of the gathered assembly," it advised.

Some of those changes could include making alcohol-based hand sanitizers available during worship, altering the "passing of the peace" practice and being creative in the distribution of elements in the Lord's Supper.

The resource recommended against intinction -- the administration of the sacrament by communicants dipping the bread into the wine -- in favor of communicants drinking from a common cup.

"Keep in mind that our hands carry more pathogens than our mouths. Use of the common cup is preferable to intinction, especially if sacramental wine with a higher alcohol content is used. Sacramental wine has an alcohol content of 18 percent and has antiseptic qualities," it counseled.

The resource concluded that worship may become an essential response to a pandemic. "During this time of anxiety around a new form of influenza, the Sunday assembly of Christians around word and sacrament is a particularly important sign of resurrection hope in the midst of fear and trouble."

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The resource, "Worship in Times of Public Health Concerns," is linked to <http://www.elca.org/Worship> on the ELCA Web site.

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November 2, 2009

Lutheran CORE Responds to ELCA Congregational Mission Director

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Two leaders of the Lutheran Coalition for Renewal (CORE) said, with a "resounding yes," they are serious about their endeavors as an organization. They also said they "take no joy in following a process that will likely lead Lutheran CORE to depart from the ELCA's (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) institutional life and ministry."

The comments were in a letter written by the Rev. Kenneth H. Sauer and the Rev. Paull E. Spring -- both former ELCA synod bishops -- in response to an Oct. 12 open letter to Lutheran CORE written by the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director, ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission.

In his letter, Bouman asked if Lutheran CORE would be "serious about mission." He said mission was not mentioned or was referenced as an afterthought during CORE's convocation, Sept. 25-26 in Fishers, Ind. About 1,200 people attended, including Bouman.

Most of CORE's convocation was devoted to responses to sexuality decisions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. CORE opposed the assembly's decisions to change ELCA ministry policies, including a change to allow Lutherans in lifelong, publicly accountable, monogamous same-gender relationships to serve as ELCA associates in ministry, clergy, deaconesses and diaconal ministers. It also opposed parts of a social statement on human sexuality adopted by the assembly.

CORE ended its ELCA affiliation as an independent Lutheran organization immediately after the assembly acted on the sexuality proposals. CORE later initiated a process to become a "free-standing synod" in the ELCA and adopted a constitution.

Sauer, chair of CORE's advisory council, and Spring, chair of CORE's steering committee, wrote, "We share with you a sense of remorse and sorrow over what has caused Lutheran CORE to take the steps we have taken regarding our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Over the years both of us, as pastors and as bishops, have been strong advocates for the ministry of the ELCA as one church."

Sauer and Spring wrote that they share a strong commitment to Christian mission and spoke of that in their presentations at the convocation. The constitution that CORE adopted "contains numerous and telling references to mission," they wrote. They pointed out that CORE made a decision to provide financial and other assistance for certain ethnic specific and immigrant African congregations.

"We recognize that some remarks at the convocation were pointed and blunt. Others spoke in an intemperate manner, something which we ourselves regret. We believe, however, that the vast majority who spoke during the public discussions were positive and irenic," wrote Sauer and Spring.

The two CORE leaders characterized the sexuality decisions made by the 2009 assembly "as part of an ongoing failure, within the churchwide expression of the ELCA, to listen to the words

of Holy Scripture and the witness of two thousand years of Christian reflection on the Word of God."

Sauer and Spring said, since the assembly's conclusion, Lutheran CORE has experienced a significant increase in support and participation.

"We are serious about our fidelity to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. We are serious about strengthening congregational life and ministry. We are serious about witnessing to others in word and deed that Jesus Christ is God's Word of salvation and newness of life for all people. We are serious about the mission to which God is calling us," they added.

The Lutheran CORE response is at <http://tinyurl.com/yahlusp> on the Lutheran CORE Web site.

Stephen Bouman's open letter to Lutheran CORE is at <http://www.ELCA.org/faithfulmission/bouman> and a news story about his letter is at <http://www.ELCA.org/News/Releases.asp?a=4314> on the ELCA Web site.

Editors: "Paull" is correct.

The **First Lutheran soup, sandwich and dessert** luncheon following worship on November 22 will have a two-fold purpose: It will provide a fellowship opportunity for the congregation and also give those attending an opportunity to contribute funds to help Brenda Bitikofer work with Medical Missions International.

Brenda, a registered nurse, has signed on to spend the week of January 9-16 in the Dominican Republic, traveling with other Medical Missions volunteers to villages that have no medical facilities, diagnosing and treating villagers and dispensing medicines.

Volunteers must pay their own expenses, including airfare, and she has been told to expect the amount to approach \$1800. Those unable to attend the luncheon who would like to contribute may do so by contacting Brenda (330-878-7348).

Both vegetable and broccoli cheese soups will be available along with Sloppy Joe and creamed chicken sandwiches and desserts.

SOCIAL MISSIONS - The mission for November will be the Hat, Mitten & Scarf Tree for Share-A-Christmas. There will be a box in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 8th thru Sunday, November 29th.

The **Community Thanksgiving** service will be held at St. John UCC on Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00 PM.

Thanksgiving Eve Holy Communion will here at First Lutheran on Wed., November 25th at 7:00 PM.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to Don & Linda Weber for the beautiful decorations in our entryway!

Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sat., November 28th at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to help get the Church ready for the upcoming season.