

## Historic Scripture Lessons for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-Last Sunday of Church Year

**Old Testament** (3-Year - Sermon)

**1 Kings 17:8-16 NIV** Then the Word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." 12 "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread - only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it - and die." 13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" 15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the Word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

### Epistle

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. 15 According to the LORD'S own Word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the LORD, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the LORD Himself will come down from Heaven, with a loud command, with

the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so we will be with the LORD forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

### Historic Gospel

**Matthew 24:15-28** "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand - 16 ... 25 See, I have told you ahead of time. 26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There He is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here He is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

### 3-Year Gospel (Sermon Text)

**Mark 12:38-44** As He taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the Law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, 39 and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 40 They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." 41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
3<sup>rd</sup>-Last Sunday in Trinity  (*Signs of the*) *End Times*



# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

\* Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 \* Organ: A.R. Burmeister

## November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 \* (Trinity-24) 🌐 End Times - Signs

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **The LORD bless you.**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On gold liturgy sheets and in (red) Hymnal p.5 .

Suggested Hymn	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	613 (4v)	Jerusalem the Golden with Milk & Honey
<i>Psalm 91</i>	<i>Ps.91 '3v'</i>	<i>Be With Me LORD When I Am in Trouble 7</i>
Hymn of the Day	443 (8v)	<i>Sing v.1-6</i> O LORD of Heav'n&Earth&Sea
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	443 (8v)	<i>Sing v.7&amp;8</i> We lose what on ourselves we
Third Hymn	657 (4v)	Beautiful Savior, King of Creation ...
Closing Hymn	400 (6v)	Take My Life and Let It Be-Consecrated...
Extra Nation Hymn	577 (2v)	<i>Sing v.1&amp;2</i> God Bless Our Native Land ...

### Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dan11:36-12:1	Ezek.38:1-23	Ezek39:1-29	Isa.43:14-25	Isa.33:17-24	Eze.37:1-14
Matt24:29-51	Matt22:23-33	I Cor.15:11-50	Heb.3:7-4:13	Heb.11:8-16	He.12:18-29

## PROPERs for the THIRD-LAST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR / NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

**INTROIT** Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble. Deliver me from the hand of mine enemies and from those who persecute me. Let me not be ashamed, LORD, for I have called upon You. I put my trust in You, O LORD; let me never be ashamed. ...from **Psalm 31**

**COLLECT** Almighty God, we beseech You, show Your mercy to Your humble servants, that we, who put no trust in our own merits, may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment, but according to Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever" **C: ♪ A - - men.**

**GRADUAL** Oh, fear the LORD, all His Saints, for there is nothing lacking to them that fear Him. They that seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Alleluia! ...from **Psalms 74 & 46**

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on the outside page of the bulletin)

O.T. **Isaiah 49:12-17** North, South, East & West: They will all come.  
 Epi. **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** Don't grieve like those who have *no hope*.  
 Gos. **Matthew 24:15-28** Signs in Nature, World & Church of Jesus' Coming.  
*Next Sunday 11/18 Trinity-2<sup>nd</sup>-Last (p.15 L.S.) #s 603 Ps.91 611 611.7 605 618*

### Psalm 91 REFRAIN: BE WITH ME LORD, WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE; BE WITH ME LORD, I PRAY

**Refrain C:** ♪ Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the LORD Most High, Who abide in the shadow of our God. Say to the LORD: "My Refuge and Fortress, the God in whom I trust."

**Refrain C:** ♪ Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.

2. No evil shall befall you, no pain come near, For His angels stand close by your side. Guarding you always and bearing you gently, Watching over your life.

**Refrain C:** ♪ Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.

3. Those who cling to the LORD live secure in His love, Lifted high those who trust in His Name. Call on the LORD, He will never forsake you, He will bring you salvation and joy. **C: ♪ BE WITH ME LORD, WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE; BE WITH ME LORD, I PRAY.**

#443 7. We lose what on ourselves we spend; - We have as treasure without end Whatever LORD, to Thee we lend, - Who givest all;

8. To Thee, from Whom we all derive - Our life, our gifts, our power to give. Oh, may we ever with Thee live, - Who givest all! A--men.

### PRAYER REQUESTS: (Member or Relation) Pray for...

**Dee Kurczewski** (David) Dee - rehabbing. David back working  
**Carolyn Miner** (Don) Carolyn had brain bleed stroke. Home recovering well  
**Jon & Andrea Sawyer** Jon's heart, changing work. Andrea started new work  
**Ethel Wendt** (Steve) Ethel had surgery. Recovering well at home. PTL  
**Barb Wolkens** Barb seriously stiff neck. Doctors don't know cause yet  
**James Vanesky & Delores Platt** Both at home rehabbing. We miss them

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
<b>Greeters</b>	Orpha & John Weber	Pat & Dave Wiesenauer
<b>Treaters</b>	Mary Lou Knigge	Shirley & DuWayne Marquardt

Statistics	Last week	Year To Date / Avg.
<b>Sunday, Attendance</b> (Communion)	19 / (18)	20 / 17
<b>Bible Class Attendance:</b> Sunday	12!	10
<b>Sunday Offering</b> (Needed) & YTD	\$. (\$1,350)	YTD\$, (\$60.6K)

Calendar of Events		
<b>Today November 11</b> (Trinity-24 Sunday) 3 <sup>rd</sup> -Last Sun. of Year	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 ff...	<b>Bible Study</b> Figures of Christ: <i>Priest</i> <b>Divine Worship (NO Communion)</b> "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... <i>Stay!</i>
<b>Tuesday, 11/13</b>	1:30-3:30	OSL "Game Time" Activities in hall
<b>Saturday, 11/17</b>	10:00 am	OSLadies' Guild NOV meeting in hall
<b>Next Sunday 11/18</b> (Trinity-25 Sunday) 2 <sup>nd</sup> -Last Sun. of Year	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 ff...	<b>Bible Study</b> Figures of Christ: <i>Prophet</i> <b>Divine Worship (WITH Communion)</b> "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... <i>Stay!</i>

**Elders:** Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892.

#443 1. God bless our Native Land! Firm may she ever stand Thro' storm and night! - When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave Do Thou- our- country save - By- Thy great might.

2. For her our prayer shall rise - To God above the skies; - On Him we wait. Thou who art ever nigh, - Guarding with watchful eye, To Thee- a-loud we cry, - God- save the State! A--men.

**TRINITY(3<sup>rd</sup>-LAST) Mark 12:41-44 "PLINK, PLINK! WIDOW'S FAITH" 11.11.18 OSL**

**WIDOW-THEME** The theme this morning seems to be **widows**. The widow at **Zarephath** with whom the prophet Elijah stayed. The widows whose **houses were devoured** by the religious scribes who made a big show of their religiosity. And then the **poor widow** who came into the temple courtyard in view of Jesus and His disciples, who dropped two copper pennies into the temple treasury, everything she had.

**GOD & WIDOWS** Widows have a **special place in the heart of God**. Think of **Ruth**, a young widow, and her mother-in-law, an older widow. Or **Anna** who was with Simeon in the temple, widowed for most of her life. **Paul** reminds Pastor Timothy to "*Honor widows ... who are real widows*" (apparently there were some who weren't genuinely widowed). He reminds everyone that it is their religious duty of families to care for their widowed relatives. He makes provision in the church to care for those widows who truly have no one to care for them. **James** says, "*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*" Clearly, the widow is of special interest with the Lord.

**(ROCK)BOTTOM...** She is **one notch below the beggar**, in that she not only has nothing but has no means of support. In the societies of the Bible, women were not self-supporting and generally could not live on their own. Young women remarried, as Ruth did. Older women usually lived with relatives. The widow who had no one in this world was especially vulnerable.

**(OT) FOREIGNER** Such was the **widow at Zarephath**, a town in Sidon, up on the north coast, far from Jerusalem and the center of Israel. She wasn't an Israelite, not one of God's people, the insiders. She was, what the Israelites called one of the "**goyeem**," the nations, the outsiders. That makes Elijah's visit all the more significant, as the Lord specifically tells Elijah to go there and specifically tells her to welcome him. And Israel, and we, are reminded once again, that **God's mercy knows no boundaries**, that the blessing that was to come through Israel was not just for Israel but for all the nations, for the whole world. For this widow.

**MOUTH/S TO FEED** Like "Old Mother Hubbard" that widow's cupboard was bare. A handful of flour, a tiny bit of oil. Enough for a tiny loaf of bread to share with her son. **A single mom unable to make ends meet**. It's not a new story, is it? And now there's a guest. Another mouth to feed and where will she get enough flour and oil?

**OBEYS** Elijah assures 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.*" **She could have said no**. She could have taken care of herself and her son first, never mind this stranger. But she does as the prophet tells her. All she knows is that she barely has enough flour and oil to feed her son and her. But she bakes the first loaf for Elijah.

And then she reaches into her flour jar and oil a second time, and there's more. Enough for both of them. And then more. And even more. Every time she reaches into her flour jar, there is enough for her daily bread.

**FOR-1-DAY** "*Give us this day our **daily** bread.*" Bread sufficient **for the day, and not a crumb more**. Or if a crumb more, than better to share it with our own Lazarus's in our lives. But the Old Adam won't have it this way. He would pray, "*Give us today enough bread for a week, a month, a year, a lifetime, so I won't have to work or worry any more.*" Old Adam would feed himself first, take care of number one, before he gave any of it away to this stranger. That's the sensible thing to do, isn't it?

**(OT)MANNA** The **Manna** in the wilderness lasted just one day. Except Friday when it lasted two. If you tried to store it, **it would rot**. *Give us this day our **daily** bread.*

**GREED=IDOLATRY** We want more and assurances there will be more. **Like the rich fool** planning for barns **he didn't need** to store grain he would never eat. We store and hoard and acquire until we're literally choking. "*Greed is idolatry,*" **Paul** says. Idolatry goes on in the heart that is unbuckled from God, a heart that seeks security in **things**, in **bread**, in **wealth**, in whatever promises to keep us safe, secure, well-fed and happy.

**NEVER-ON-"E"** "*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.*" I imagine all the widow ever saw, was the jar of flour and that cruet of olive oil. And every time she came to it, there was more, "according to the Word of the Lord."

**MUCH FROM NADA** The Word. It creates out of nothing. It **multiplies the meager**. The Word of the Lord brings daily bread. And that poor Gentile widow, who had nothing, trusted that Word of the Lord spoken by Elijah, and God cared for her and did not let her starve or her son.

**SCUM-SCRIBES** Unlike Elijah, the scribes were known for squeezing widows out of the homes. (Like the **televangelists today** who prey on the homebound who watch them on TV,) The scribes made **easy marks** of the helpless widows with their pretensions of religion. Instead of helping them, the scribes took advantage of them for their own profit. Their condemnation is great. God doesn't take kindly to defrauding widows.

**PLINK, PLINK!** While they are sitting in the temple courtyard, **another widow** entered with her offering. Offerings went into these metal trumpets with long necks that ensured that lots of coins made lots of clatter as they went down. When the rich came, there was great excitement and a great noise as all their coins clanged down the neck of the treasury box. And then this poor widow came. And there was no great sound, nothing to draw anyone's attention. Just, **Plink, plink**. Two little copper pennies. Plink, plink. Nobody would notice, much less hear.

(BUT) JESUS HEARD. He heard that little, barely audible plink, plink. **What He heard was faith**, trust, a widow's trust in the goodness and mercy of God who cares for the widow and the orphan. Faith that dared to give the **last bit of flour and oil** to the prophet. Faith that dared to put the **last two pennies** into the collection plate. *"Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those contributing to the offering box."* That's **not** what the accountants would say, but Jesus' accounting methods are a bit different. It's not the amount. It's faith. **Faith alone**. All that matters to God.

LET GO The poor widow held those two precious pennies with the **dead hand of faith**. That's how she could so easily let go of them. She was dead to them and alive to God. Everyone else contributed out of abundance; she out of poverty. Those two pennies – plink, plink – they were all she had.

2¢ WORTH I doubt that any of us, I know for a fact that I am not putting everything I have in the collection plate this morning. (And this really is **not a Stewardship sermon**...) There is no reason for pride or boasting in our generosity. This poor widow's two pennies will rise up to testify against us. She's there to keep us from being proud of our giving and to call us to repent of our distrust of the Lord and His goodness.

BEGGARS (WE) ALL Luther said at the end of his life, *"We are all beggars."* It's the truth. Before God, we are as **empty as that poor widow's flour jar**. We have nothing to offer God. Yet He does something with His Word that we cannot do for ourselves. He **forgives us**. He **baptizes us**, **joins us** to Jesus' death and life. He **feeds us** with a bread we cannot make for ourselves – the bread of His Body, the wine of His Blood. In the midst of Sin's famine, to our utter lack and emptiness, to our spiritual hunger and thirst for righteousness, God in Christ gives us the Bread of Life, Christ, **living Bread come down from Heaven**.

(SCRIBES) DON'T GET IT That's what the scribes didn't realize with their **long robes** and **longer prayers** and **even longer religion**. They didn't recognize how impoverished they really were. They didn't see themselves in the very widows whose houses they were devouring. They didn't see the One Needful Thing in Jesus, whose death and Resurrection is the core and substance of faith.

SURVIVAL How did that poor widow survive when she returned home from the temple? How did she have enough money to buy food? Where would she get more to replace those two copper pennies? We don't know. (But) **Jesus knows. And He knows you too**. And He **cares** for you. Your anxieties will never put a single crumb of bread on the table. But the Word of the Lord will give you living Bread forever. Trust in the Lord and in His Word and you will never be put to shame.

*The eyes of all wait on You, O LORD, and You give them their meat in due season. You open Your Hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

**IJ'N, Amen. SDG**

**Possible Prayer of Church** ☩ 3<sup>rd</sup>-Last Sunday of Church Year, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 2018  
*People loved by God, let us come before our Heavenly Father in the Name of His Son, asking Him to grant every good gift to us and all in need. (Maybe silence)*

That He would graciously keep us in His divine Word and send out faithful laborers into His harvest, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That He would bestow His Holy Spirit on all preachers and ministers of His Church, that they may proclaim and teach the Word purely and rightly and be examples of godly living, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That He would mercifully preserve us from all false doctrine and curb and restrain all error, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That He would deliver us from all hypocrisy and pretending, granting us genuine faith, joyful piety and cheerful giving, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have...**

That He would mercifully assist all our sisters and brothers who are assaulted for Christ, that they would remain steadfast in true faith with patience and, according to His will, that the persecution may end or be lightened, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That He would open the door for His Gospel to be preached in every place, and that He would overthrow all that opposes its spread, let us pray to the Lord: **L...**

That He would hold in His gracious protection all the leaders and officers of our nation and state, preserving them from all evil and blessing them in body and soul, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That He would comfort, keep and assist all the afflicted and troubled, the sick [*and especially **OSL Prayer List** and all who have asked for our prayer*], all women with child, all young children, the mourning and those in any need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That He would graciously defend us from all adversity and evil, and that He would preserve and bless the fruits of the field and give us grace to enjoy them in peace and health with thankful hearts, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may join the faithful departed and be brought with them to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

All these things and whatever else You know us to need, grant us, kind Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



INTRODUCTION There was a man who called at the church and asked if he could speak to the **Head Hog at the trough**. The secretary said, *"Who?"* Then she gathered herself and said *"Sir, if you mean our pastor you will have to treat him with a little more respect than that and ask for the 'Reverend' or 'The Pastor.' But certainly you cannot refer to him as the Head Hog at the Trough."* The man said, *"I understand. I was calling because I have \$10,000 I was thinking about donating to the building fund."*

She said, *"Oh. Hold on for just a moment - I think the Big Pig just walked in the door." ...* Are we all subject to **changing our tune when (big) money is suddenly involved(?)** That's why this passage of Scripture has been an enduring image throughout the ages. We play favorites. We treat those who give more as if they are the pillars on which the church is erected. . . . ↗