

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 11 November 2018

Sentence Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Luke 6.38

Collect

God of fierce justice, you oppose those who devour the poor and hide behind their prayer:

humbled by the giving of those who have so little,

let us live from your abundance

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from the first book of Kings

Sidon (now in modern Lebanon) was in the heartland of the worship of Baal, the false god that Israel's people often found attractive. The story of the widow's miraculous survival demonstrates that Israel's God can bring drought and provide sustenance, even outside Israel. The major theme of these chapters in Kings is that God is in control of history, not kings and certainly not 'other' gods.

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

1Kings 17.-8-16

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 146 APBA page 377

This psalm begins the concluding praise psalms (145-150) which stress the power of God to create and redeem. It is an encapsulation of Israel's relationship with God over the centuries.



The Saint Noël Chabanel Responsorial Psalm Project <http://chabanelpsalms.org>

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Here the writer interprets Jesus' death as the one effective sacrifice that atones for the sins of all humanity. Previously, the priests of the Jerusalem Temple had to offer animal sacrifices daily, and annually enter the Holy of Holies with the blood of a red heifer. Now, Christ's self offering has abolished the old ways and Christ now lives eternally in God's presence making it possible for us to draw close to God, confident that we are forgiven and redeemed (bought back from our enslavement to sin and death).

Commemorations of the week.

November 11 Martin of Tours (c. 316-397), A monk and a bishop; one of the most popular saints in the Middle Ages. Famous in art with his action of cutting his cloak in half to clothe a nearly naked beggar. The Chapel of St Martin at St George's has a window in his honour which depicts this action.

November 12 Charles Simeon (1759-1830), the parish priest at Holy Trinity, Cambridge all his ordained ministry. One of the founders of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) and early supporter of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He was a leader of the evangelical revival at the beginning of the 19th century and was influential on the 19th century missionary movement.

November 16 Margaret of Scotland, Queen (1046-1093). Intelligent, beautiful and devout, she founded or revived many monasteries and was noted for her compassion for the poor.

November 17 Hilda (614-680), abbess of Whitby, which she founded or re-founded. She was especially interested in education, founding libraries, stimulating education of clerics and fostering poetry.

November 17 Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln (1140-1200). Renowned, even in his lifetime, for holiness and devotion. He was a firm defender of ordinary people against royalty and the aristocracy and the improper use of public money.

Jesus was teaching in the temple, and a large crowd was listening to him. He said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 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. For 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.'

Mark 12.38-44

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week 18 November 2018

Daniel 12.1-3 Ps. 16 Hebrews 10.11-14;19-25 Mark 13.1-11

Prayer for the Week. Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, by patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed.

We remember before God: Ruby Cooke, Dora Hills, Margaret Tenison Philip, Margaret (Peg) Nelson, Natali Cerini, Dorothea Baxter, Charles Smith, Michael Somerville, Aune Smith, Guy Raoul Pascal, Florence Williams, Margaret Mercer *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Thus it was necessary for the sketches of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves need better sacrifices than these. For 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. Nor 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; 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. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so 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.

Hebrews 9.23-28

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus said: 'The kingdom of God has come near: repent and believe the good news.'

ALL Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The denunciation of the scribes concludes Mark's Jerusalem conflict stories, whose function is to show the widening gulf between Jesus and the Jerusalem authorities, and so to prepare the way for the Sanhedrin's decision to get rid of Jesus. The widow who gave all demonstrated more trust in God than the large gifts of the wealthy given with pomp and show. The two stories provide a foil for one another for the behaviour of the scribes is contrasted sharply with that of the widow.