

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
November 7th, 2021
“Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost”

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS
“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive
Come, all who are anxious or burdened.
This is a time to experience good news.
This is God’s house, and we can meet God here.
We are brought in the family of God.
Come with expectancy and anticipation.
God is present to greet you and change your life.
We are here to remember the ministry of Jesus.
We have come to be equipped for our ministry.
In our eager waiting, there is fullness of joy.
In our preparation for worship, we discover life.
Unless God is the shaper of our lives, we live in vain.
Unless we view our city as God’s own, there is emptiness here.
Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*
UMH 454 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison (The Apostles’ Creed)
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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The
third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and
sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence
He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy

Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

MH 191 (vs.1)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION Pastor Jenny Lee

CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH 13-14 (See insert)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which
you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the
name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 12:38-44

38 As 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, 39 and to have the best seats in the
synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They devour widows’ houses and for
the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”



November 7th, 2021
Mark 12:38-44

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

“All In”

I want to start with something funny. I wonder how many of you have made Halloween pumpkins. I think many of you have. I heard that being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes off all the dirt. Then God cuts the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. God removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Finally, God carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. When I heard that, I was impressed. When God holds us, we will have a smiling face with his light.

Today, I want to talk about “All In.” If I say “All In,” what comes to mind? You might think of a gambler. Yes, “all in” is a word in gambling. When gamblers play poker and bet everything on one hand, they say “all in,” which means s/he is fully committed in the game betting everything s/he had. What kind of mind does the gambler have when the gambler says, “all in”? Perhaps they think that they will gain all or lose all.

When I read today’s scripture about a poor widow’s offering, the word “all in” came to mind. I wonder if she bet everything she had on God. What do you think of the widow? In today’s scripture, let us imagine and listen to what Jesus said. “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 were 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.”

Why did Jesus watch people give offerings to God? Was he really curious about how much they offered to God? What does Jesus want to teach his disciples through the widow’s offering? Does he want us “all in” on God like the widow or the gambler? We are curious if God wants us to give all to God. We are sure it doesn’t mean God’s will is for us to give all of our livelihood. The prophet Micah says, “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”(Micah 6:8).

If Jesus’ will is not to praise the widow’s offering, what is his will? We remember that a woman broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus’ head. When it happened, Jesus said, “whatever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” (Mark 14:3-9). That is fantastic praise. However, Jesus didn’t give any credit to the widow, except saying she gave everything to the treasury. We don’t know how the widow lived after she gave all in the treasury. However, we should know what Jesus teaches us through this passage.

To understand this passage, we should read verses 38-40. We read about two people throughout today’s scripture; Scribes and a widow. Their lives were very different. Scribes were

teachers of the law, and they were greeted with respect in the marketplace. They wore expensive robes and had the best seats in the synagogue and places of honor at banquets. However, how about the widow? Widows weren't respected or greeted, and couldn't have a seat in any good places, and couldn't have good clothes because they lived in poverty and were treated as sinners and outcasts by society. Through these two kinds of people, Jesus teaches us "beware of the scribes" who like to walk around in long robes, and like to be greeted with respect, and like to sit in the best seats. Moreover, Jesus said, "they devour widows' houses." That is, Jesus warned that scribes exploited the poor and widows at that time instead of caring for them. Jesus taught scribes about the greatest commandment right before (Mark 12:28-31), which is loving God and loving our neighbors. Scribes loved money instead of God and neighbors. Jesus taught us that we could not serve two masters. And as the example, Jesus said, "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24). Teachers of the Law and leaders serve money, not God, even though they taught people to serve God. The leaders exploited people who served God.

We sometimes misunderstand God's will. God gives us materials and gifts. For some, God gives more. For some, God gives less. Why does God give gifts differently? Why does God not provide everything to everyone fairly? It is because God loves us so much. If you know the joy and happiness in sharing, you know what I mean. We know the joy in sharing what is ours. That's why we do mission work. We do the rummage sale to help others in need. We support the Food shelf/ Pantry. We collect coins for different missions. We do all these things because we know God's love. Early Christians who were filled with the Holy Spirit sold their possessions and goods and gave them to anyone in need (Acts 2:45). God wants us to live together, practicing loving God and loving one another. Remember, Jesus came to the world to serve people, not to be served. Jesus showed us how much he loved us dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

There is a story where the prophet Nathan told King David (2 Samuel 12:1-12): There were two men in a certain town. One rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little baby lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup, and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for his guest. Instead, he took the baby lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him. When King David heard that, he burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die!" And, Nathan said to him, "You are the man." This is the story of when King David killed his servant Uriah and took his wife.



Let us reflect on ourselves through the scribes and King David; have we become dull to sense God's will? As Christians and as Christian leaders, are we keeping a God-centered mind? What does it mean we do all in God? As the prophet Micah said, God's will is "to act justly and to love mercifully and to walk humbly with your God."(Micah 6:8). It is true all through God. Remember, we are like Halloween pumpkins. Only when we are held by God's hand, can we keep the light in us to shine the world. Thanks be to God. Amen!

CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS ... November

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p>Thanksgiving Special Offering ...</p> <p>10% of our tithe will go to support the St. Croix Falls and Luck school back-pack program...let us all give thanks! Envelopes will be available in the church entry for this offering.</p>	 <p>Operation Christmas Child</p> <p>We will be supporting Operation Christmas Child-shoe boxes and information is available at church</p>
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GRANTSBURG... November

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!</p> <p>Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	 <p>We will be supporting Operation Christmas Child-shoe boxes and drop off due is November 21 early morning.</p>
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ST. CROIX FALLS ... November

<p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p>  <p>Food Gift Cards for families in need at Thanksgiving.</p>
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TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Today's Service

Central:
 Pianist Toni Koons
 Liturgist **Volunteer Needed**
 Mowing **Volunteer Needed**
 Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson
 Fellowship **Volunteer Needed**
 Counter **Volunteer Needed**
 Sunday School Younger/Older
 LuAnne Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:
 Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Sue Olson
 Usher(s) Sue Olson
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**
 Sunday School Younger/Older
 Cheryl Olson/Jamie Steffen

St. Croix Falls:
 Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Kathy Gionis
 Usher(s) Karen Sciacca
 Money Counter Peter Gionis
 Flowers Kathy Gionis
 Fellowship Ad Council members



BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:
 "This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)
 Please pray every morning at 8:30, if it is possible!

- 1) Pray for the Youth/Children ministry.
- 2) Pray for our church's revitalization.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am. The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page. Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You can hear “the service by Phone,” whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854.
- 4) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week’s Calendar:

Today: “24th Sunday after Pentecost.” God bless you and your family members!

Sunday Worship Service:

8:30 am Grantsburg

9:45 am Atlas

11:15 am St. Croix Falls

11/9: 7:00-8:30pm, Provisional Elder mentoring (Pastor Jenny).

11/10: 6:30pm, Confirmation class’ Orientation (G)

11/11: 9:00-11:30am, Grantsburg Food Shelf Volunteer (Pastor Jenny)

11/13: 8:00am, UMM Meeting (G)

The Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Marivel Harmon 11/7

Janelle Zastrow 11/13



Next Sunday (November 7th) Volunteers:

Ministers All God’s People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Mowing *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Erickson
Fellowship *Volunteer Needed*
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Younger/Older
LuAnne Martell/ Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Usher(s) *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Younger/Older
Volunteer Needed

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Kathy Gionis
Usher(s) Karen Sciacca
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Flowers Kathy Gionis
Fellowship Ad Council member(3rd Sunday)



11/7: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS-REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR

11/14: VETERANS SUNDAY (*PLEASE GIVE THE NAMES OF VETERANS IN THE CONGREGATION TO PASTOR JENNY BY 11/7.*)

11/14: PASTOR JENNY WILL PREACH AT GRACE KOREAN FELLOWSHIP IN SUPERIOR

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his
disciples,

and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is
my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery
of faith.

(Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.)

(You may hold the communion elements with your two hands.)

**(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and
on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body
and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of
Christ, redeemed by his blood.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy
Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.