

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 18, 2018



THE LESSON 1 Samuel 1:4-20

¹Whenever he sacrificed, Elkanah would give parts of the sacrifice to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ²But he would give only one part of it to Hannah, though he loved her, because the LORD had kept her from conceiving. ³And because the LORD had kept Hannah from conceiving, her rival would make fun of her mercilessly, just to bother her. ⁴So that is what took place year after year. Whenever Hannah went to the LORD's house, Peninnah would make fun of her. Then she would cry and wouldn't eat anything.

⁵"Hannah, why are you crying?" her husband Elkanah would say to her. "Why won't you eat? Why are you so sad? Aren't I worth more to you than ten sons?"

⁶One time, after eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah got up and presented herself before the LORD. (Now Eli the priest was sitting in the chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple.) ⁷Hannah was very upset and couldn't stop crying as she prayed to the LORD. ⁸Then she made this promise: "LORD of heavenly forces, just look at your servant's pain and remember me! Don't forget your servant! Give her a boy! Then I'll give him to the LORD for his entire life. No razor will ever touch his head."

⁹As she kept praying before the LORD, Eli watched her mouth.

¹⁰Now Hannah was praying in her heart; her lips were moving, but her voice was silent, so Eli thought she was drunk.

¹¹"How long will you act like a drunk? Sober up!" Eli told her.

¹²"No sir!" Hannah replied. "I'm just a very sad woman. I haven't had any wine or beer but have been pouring out my heart to the LORD. ¹³Don't think your servant is some good-for-nothing woman. This whole time I've been praying out of my great worry and trouble!"

¹⁴Eli responded, "Then go in peace. And may the God of Israel give you what you've asked from him."

¹⁵"Please think well of me, your servant," Hannah said. Then the woman went on her way, ate some food, and wasn't sad any longer.

¹⁶They got up early the next morning and worshipped the LORD. Then they went back home to Ramah. Elkanah had sex with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ¹⁷So in the course of time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, which means "I asked the LORD for him."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 113

Praise the LORD!

You who serve the LORD—praise!

Praise the LORD's name!

Let the LORD's name be blessed from now until forever from now!

From sunrise to sunset, let the LORD's name be praised!

The LORD is high over all the nations; God's glory is higher than the skies!

Who could possibly compare to the LORD our God? God rules from on high;

he has to come down to even see heaven and earth!

God lifts up the poor from the dirt and raises up the needy from the garbage pile

to seat them with leaders—with the leaders of his own people!

God nests the once barren woman at home—now a joyful mother with children!

Praise the LORD!

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25

¹¹Every priest stands every day serving and offering the same sacrifices over and over, sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when this priest offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right side of God. ¹³Since then, he's waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for his feet, ¹⁴because he perfected the people who are being made holy with one offering for all time.

¹⁵The Holy Spirit affirms this when saying,

¹⁶This is the covenant that I will make with them. After these days, says the Lord, I will place my laws in their hearts and write them on their minds. ¹⁷And I won't remember their sins and their lawless behavior

anymore.

¹⁸When there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer an offering for sin.

¹⁹Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, ²⁰through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, ²¹and we have a great high priest over God's house.

²²Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water.

²³Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.

²⁴And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. ²⁵Don't stop meeting together with other

believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

THE GOSPEL Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus left the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Teacher, look! What awesome stones and buildings!"

Jesus responded, "Do you see these enormous buildings? Not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished."

Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives across from the temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things happen? What sign will show that all these things are about to come to an end?"

Jesus said, "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many people will come in my name, saying, 'I'm the one!' They will deceive many people. When you hear of wars and reports of wars, don't be alarmed. These things must happen, but this isn't the end yet. Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other, and there will be earthquakes and famines in all sorts of places. These things are just the beginning of the sufferings associated with the end."