

## WOMEN OF LENT (Lent 5)

Rescued by God: The Widow with Elijah and Mary Magdalene

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

**Opening Hymn:** “*Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle*”- **Hymn # 454**

P: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

C: **And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.**

P: For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

C: **Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”** (Hebrews 12:1-3)

P:” Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

C: **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** (Hebrews 13:7-8)

**The Widow with Elijah:** 1 Kings 17:7-24

P: Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” 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?” As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

“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 olive 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.”

Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 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 sends rain on the land.’” 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. 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.

Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, let this boy’s life

return to him!” The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived.  
<sup>23</sup> Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Mary Magdalene:** Luke 8:1-3, John 20:10-18

P: After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own mean

Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put Him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking He was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have put him, and I will get Him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). Jesus said, “Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that He had said these things to her.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Message Hymn:** “*For All the Faithful Women*” - **Hymn #855 vs. 1, screen, 11, 3,4**

Screen verse:

For the widow who took in  
Elijah, God’s prophet  
Though she was not from Israel  
Fed him throughout the drought.  
The last of all her flour and oil  
She used to make him bread,  
But God kept them from empty  
And raised her son from death.

**Message:** “*Rescued by God—The Widow with Elijah and Mary Magdalene*”

**Hymn of Reflection:** “*Thanks to Thee , O Christ Victorious*” - **Hymn #548**

## **Passion Story Reading from St. Matthew: Matthew 27: 32-56**

P: As the soldiers went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry Jesus' cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. And over His head they put the charge against Him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if he desires Him. For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with Him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

P: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

## **Responses on Being Rescued by God:**

P: "The LORD will rescue His servants; no one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned." (Psalm 34:22)

**C: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)**

P: "My times are in Your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me." (Psalm 31:15)

**C: "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." (Isaiah 46:4)**

P: "Save me, LORD, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues." (Psalm 120:2)

**C: “The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all.” (Psalm 34:19)**

P: “Let Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your unfailing love.” (Psalm 31:16)

**C: “He sent out His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave.” (Psalm 107:20)**

P: “For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14)

**C: “The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:17-18)**

P: “Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for He guards the lives of His faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 97:10)

**C: “My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to You—I whom You have delivered.” (Psalm 71:23)**

P: “But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation. I will sing the LORD’s praise, for He has been good to me.” (Psalm 13:5-6)

**C: “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:18)**

P: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

**C: “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 7:24-25)**

**Prayers:**

**Prayer:**

**ALL: Christ Jesus, You are the way; through You alone can we the Father find; in You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind. You are the truth; Your Word alone true wisdom can impart; You only can inform the mind and purify the heart. You are the life; the empty tomb proclaims Your conquering arm, and those who put their trust in You not death nor hell shall harm. You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win whose joys eternal flow. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

P: Christ Jesus we thank You for rescuing us from sin as you did with the widow with Elijah and Mary Magdalene.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing: (pastor)**

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: “Now the Light Has Gone Away”- Hymn #887**