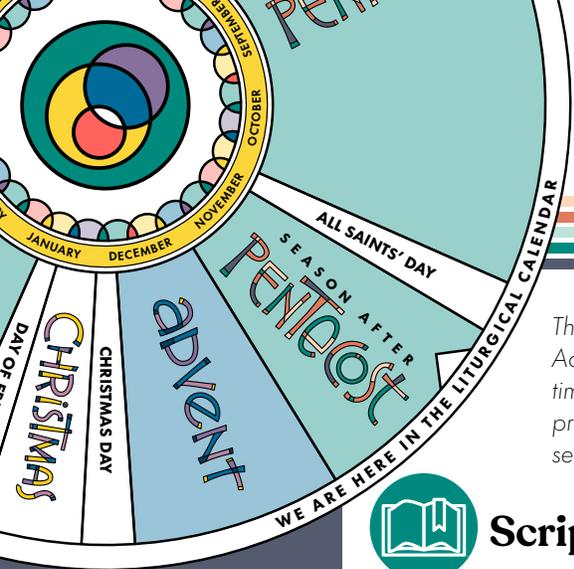


1 Samuel 2:1-8a

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday between November 13 and November 19



The Season after Pentecost is the period between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This season makes up half of the calendar year, and its liturgical color is green. It is a time to focus on the life and growth of the Church in the world, empowered by the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit. 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen captured the essence of this season when she wrote, "The Holy Spirit is the greening power of God. Our task is to blossom."



Scripture

If time allows, recap the story of Hannah before reading the scripture.

Hannah prayed and said,
"My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your deliverance."
"There is no one holier than you,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
All bragging must cease,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for God is all-knowing, and weighs all
actions.
The bows of the mighty are broken,
while those who stumble gain renewed
strength.

Those who were full now sell themselves for
bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with
spoil.
Childless women bear seven children,
while mothers of many children are
forsaken.
It is God who deals out both life and death;
God who casts down to Sheol and
raises up.
It is God who makes poor and makes rich;
it is God who both humbles and exalts.
God raises up the poor from the dust;
and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to
make them sit with the mighty and inherit a
seat of honor.

[Includes scripture from *The Inclusive Bible*]



Questions

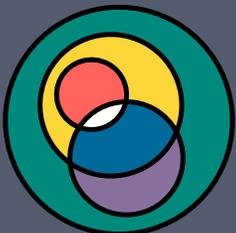
- What are some ways Hannah mentions God helps those in need?
- Hannah prayed to God to help with her troubles, and God listened. When you first read or heard Hannah's song, what did you wonder?
- Hannah sings about God helping her during a difficult time. When was God with you during a difficult time?
- Hannah is one of many women in the Bible who sing about how God helps those in need. When have you seen God's help in your life, family, church, or community?
- Hannah sings about God's saving work and how it helps those in need. What are some ways you could respond when help arrives?

Look it Up!

Look up Emma Lazarus' poem, "The New Colossus." Found on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, this poem speaks of deliverance, nurture, and freedom. It reminds us what liberty means.



mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

The song "Glory" by Common & John Legend
Copies of lyrics of "Glory"

God's deliverance describes how God saves suffering people. God's deliverance brings hope. God's deliverance also saves people from unfair treatment, like when God delivered the Israelites from Egypt. What moments of deliverance through history can you think of?

From what things have we been delivered? Can you remember a time you were struggling, and God delivered you?

In today's story, Hannah felt hopeless. When God delivered her, she sang a song to remember what God did! Have you ever sung a song to remember something?

Even today, people write songs of hope when they are going through struggles. An example of a song that has this message is "Glory." Listen to the song together or discuss other songs the group knows about having hope in God's deliverance.

What parts of the song remind us of God and God's promises? What parts show the songwriter's hope that God will deliver? God doesn't promise our lives will be easy, but God does promise that justice will come.

Go around in a circle, filling in this sentence about God's deliverance: I was (sad, hurting, frustrated, etc.) but God delivered me when _____. I know God will always (love me, deliver me, help me, listen to me, etc.).

Alternate Activity

What things are delivered to you? For example, do you receive presents in the mail or have your food delivered by a waiter at a restaurant? When something is delivered to you, it is brought to you.

When God delivers us, God brings justice to people who are hurting.

We can also help God deliver the people around us.

When you receive a present in the mail, the mail carrier delivers it. But is the present from the mail carrier? No. The present is from someone else, but the mail carrier delivers it. In this way, we can bring God's deliverance to others when we give them a kind word, a hug, or even a smile.

Play this game: Sit in a circle. One person pretends to be sad, lonely, or scared. Then, another person gets to be an agent of God's deliverance and offers something to make them feel better! It could be something pretend (like a snack or a present), or it could be a hug or a kind word.

How does it feel to help someone feel better? How does it feel to receive a kind word?



Micropractice

People have been singing their prayers for thousands of years. The next time you pray by yourself, join in this sacred tradition and sing your prayer or even just sing the "amen." God loves your voice!



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrtdm.in/minirevBAP25



Prayer

Dear God, thank you for all you have brought us through. Help us remember all the hard times when you helped us. When we go through difficult things, let us remember you are with us. Amen.

HANNAH
PRAYED,

MY HEART in the LORD; MY STRENGTH IS EXALTED

in my
GOD

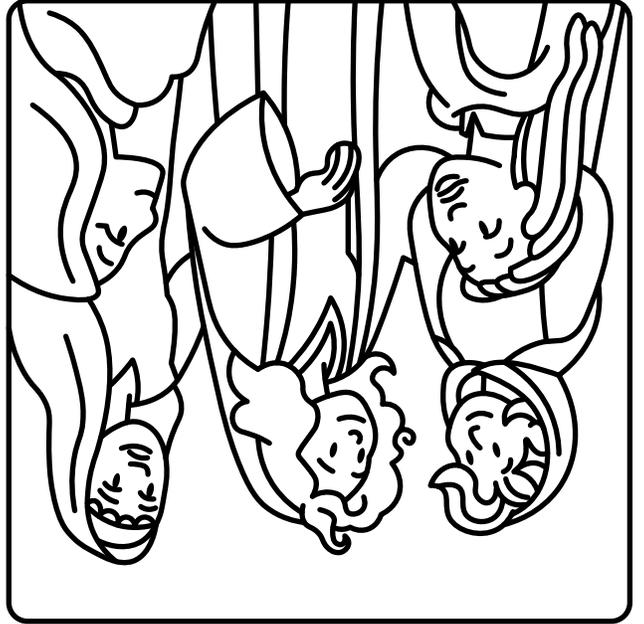
GOD RAISES UP

the
D
POOR
from the

DUST;
AND LIFTS the
NEEDY
from the ASH HEAP,

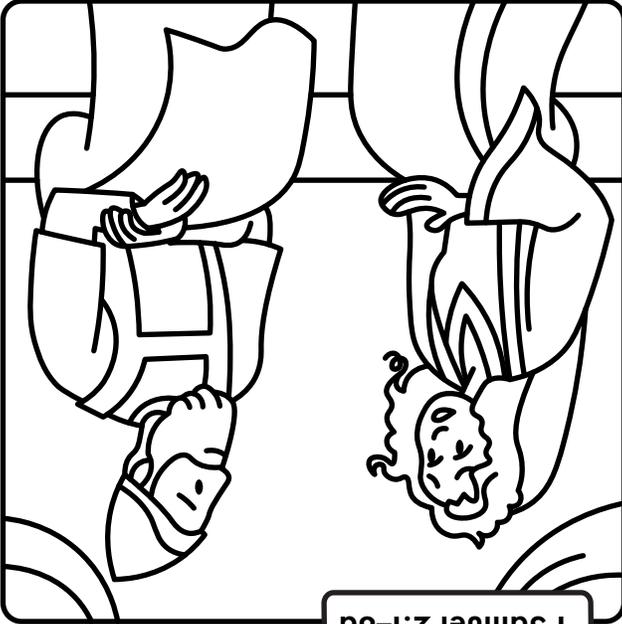
TO MAKE THEM SIT WITH THE
MIGHTY
and INHERIT
A SEAT OF HONOR.

4. Hannah's song connected her to other women in the Bible—like Miriam, Mary, Elizabeth, and Hagar—who praised God's justice, mercy, and love. They remind us we can be part of the song, too, by acting in justice, mercy, and love.



3. She sang about all the amazing things God does. She sang about how God feeds the hungry and lifts up the weak. She sang about how God makes everyone and everything.

1. Hannah had been troubled for a long time. She went to the temple to pray to God for help. When Eli, the priest, saw her, Hannah told him about her troubles. Eli told her to go in peace.



2. God heard Hannah's prayers and eased her troubles. She even learned she would have a baby! Hannah was overjoyed. She was so happy with what God had done in her life, she began to sing. "My heart delights in God!" she sang.