EXODUS

Chapter 37

*The Ark*

**Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. 2 He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside and out, and made a gold molding around it. 3 He cast four gold rings for it and fastened them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. 4 Then he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. 5 And he inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. 6 He made the atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. 7 Then he made two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. 8 He made one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; at the two ends he made them of one piece with the cover. 9 The cherubim had their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.**

**37:1–29** See note on 35:4–39:43. (CSB)

**37:1–9** Cf 25:10–20. (TLSB)

**37:1** *Bezalel made the ark.* The chief craftsman (see 31:2–3) was given the honor of making the most sacred object (see 25:10 and note) among the furnishings for the tabernacle. (CSB)

**37:2** Cf 25:11.

**37:4–6** Cf 25:10–22. (TLSB)

**37:1–9** The ark and mercy seat are built. As the single most holy piece of furniture, the ark is specifically mentioned as being built by Bezalel. The ark would receive the blood of the sacrifices, which pointed forward to the atonement of Christ, our Lord. • O Lord God, Your holiness and mercy shine more brightly than the finest gold. Exceedingly great is Your mercy toward us. Amen. (TLSB)

*The Table*

**10 They made the table of acacia wood—two cubits long, a cubit wide, and a cubit and a half high. 11 Then they overlaid it with pure gold and made a gold molding around it. 12 They also made around it a rim a handbreadth wide and put a gold molding on the rim. 13 They cast four gold rings for the table and fastened them to the four corners, where the four legs were. 14 The rings were put close to the rim to hold the poles used in carrying the table. 15 The poles for carrying the table were made of acacia wood and were overlaid with gold. 16 And they made from pure gold the articles for the table—its plates and dishes and bowls and its pitchers for the pouring out of drink offerings.**

**37:10–16** Bezalel builds the table for the bread of the Presence. Just as the Lord provided for the nourishment of the priests in the bread and the flagons containing wine, so He nourishes us now in the elements of the Lord’s Supper, even giving us His body and blood. • O Holy Spirit, lead us to seek the merciful presence of Jesus in Holy Communion, where He has promised to be found. Amen. (TLSB)

*The Lampstand*

**17 They made the lampstand of pure gold and hammered it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms were of one piece with it. 18 Six branches extended from the sides of the lampstand—three on one side and three on the other. 19 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms were on one branch, three on the next branch and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. 20 And on the lampstand were four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. 21 One bud was under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair—six branches in all. 22 The buds and the branches were all of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold. 23 They made its seven lamps, as well as its wick trimmers and trays, of pure gold. 24 They made the lampstand and all its accessories from one talent of pure gold.**

**37:17–24** The assembled lampstand gives light to the tabernacle but also symbolizes the light of God’s care and mercy. Due to sin, the eyes of our heart are bad, and the whole body is darkened (Mt 6:23). How great is our need for repentance! Jesus is the light of the world, and in Him we have the light of life (Jn 8:12). • Jesus, we praise You that through Word and Sacrament, You enlighten us to walk in the way of salvation (Ps 119:105). Amen. (TLSB)

*The Altar of Incense*

**25 They made the altar of incense out of acacia wood. It was square, a cubit long and a cubit wide, and two cubits high—its horns of one piece with it. 26 They overlaid the top and all the sides and the horns with pure gold, and made a gold molding around it. 27 They made two gold rings below the molding—two on opposite sides—to hold the poles used to carry it. 28 They made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. 29 They also made the sacred anointing oil and the pure, fragrant incense—the work of a perfumer.**

**37:25–29** The altar of incense and the anointing oil purifies the air of the tabernacle. Their composition is precious. Later, the Magi brought Jesus precious incense after His birth, showing that His life’s work on our behalf was a pleasing fragrance before the Father. He covers the stench of our sin and makes us precious to the Father. • Holy Jesus, purify us, that we may honor You before the Father in heaven. Amen. (TLSB)