

# EXODUS

## Chapter 37

### *Making The Ark*

**Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. 2 And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold around it. 3 And he cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. 4 And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold 5 and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark. 6 And he made a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. 7 And he made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat, 8 one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends. 9 The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim.**

**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)

**37:1–9** 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)

### *Making the Table*

**10 He also made the table of acacia wood. Two cubits was its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold around it. 12 And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and made a molding of gold around the rim. 13 He cast for it four rings of gold and fastened the rings to the four corners at its four legs. 14 Close to the frame were the rings, as holders for the poles to carry the table. 15 He made the poles of acacia wood to carry the table, and overlaid them with gold. 16 And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour 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)

### *Making the Lampstand*

**17 He also made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work. Its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers were of one piece with it. 18 And there were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; 19 three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. 20 And on the lampstand itself were four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and**

**flowers, 21 and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out of it. 22 Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole of it was a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. 23 And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold. 24 He made it and all its utensils out of a 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)

*Making the Altar of Incense*

**25 He made the altar of incense of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit, and its breadth was a cubit. It was square, and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it. 26 He overlaid it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns. And he made a molding of gold around it, 27 and made two rings of gold on it under its molding, on two opposite sides of it, as holders for the poles with which to carry it. 28 And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. 29 He made the holy anointing oil also, and the pure fragrant incense, blended as by the 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)