

**Lessons for The Third Sunday after Pentecost          June 18, 2023**

Psalm 100 ~ *Praise and thanks to God for creating and claiming us in love.*

Exodus 19:2-8 ~ *At Sinai, Israel agreed to the Lord's will and became God's covenant people.*

Romans 5:6-15 ~ *God loves us so much that He turned us from His enemies into His children.*

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-20) ~ *Jesus sent the Twelve to announce the presence of the Kingdom.*

**GATHERING THE TEXTS:** Ventures as Yet Unseen

Freed from the shackles of Egypt, the Israelites readily agreed to do all that the Lord commanded them, even though they had no idea what trials lay before them in the wilderness. Jesus sent the disciples out on a new venture without telling them what to expect, but only that they would be reaching lost sheep of the Kingdom for God. We have been called into the circle of God's love through the death of Jesus the Christ. We may be confident that His love will sustain us until He receives us into the gates of heaven with thanksgiving.

**PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE:** Lord God, you have called your servant to ventures of which I cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give me faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where I go but only that your hand is leading me and your love supporting me; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen. (*LSB, 193 - For Guidance in our Calling*)

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** Service to God and neighbor does not begin until we respond to the needs of others with joy.

**OFFERING PRAYER:** Lord, when we trust Your bounteous grace  
And see You in a needy neighbor's face  
Then miracles begin to grow,  
And in our joyful deeds Your mercies show. Amen.

**CONVICTION AND COMFORT:** God calls us to tasks of service in his Kingdom. Often we find ourselves responding with a sense of duty, wary of trials and difficulties that lie in our path. Sometimes we even turn aside from the path for fear of what lies ahead. God chose us in Christ and changed our attitude toward him and to our task, turning us from his enemies into his children. Our grudging duty becomes joyful service.

**Questions to Consider:** Why would you sign a blank check for a friend?

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**Bonus on next page:**