

**Lessons for Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 9, 2022**

Psalm 111 ~ *A psalm of praise for God's unfailing providence and faithfulness.*

Ruth 1:1-19a ~ *Ruth went with Naomi to Bethlehem, rejoicing in her new home and family.*

2 Timothy 2:1-13 ~ *In Christ's faithfulness we have life with God and the courage to share it.*

Luke 17:11-19 ~ *The Samaritan leper gave thanks to God for his gift of new health.*

**GATHERING THE TEXTS:** Following Our Faithful God

Ruth followed her mother-in-law and found a new home and a new family among Naomi's people, and God showed Himself faithful by including Ruth in the ancestry of the Savior. St. Paul charged Timothy to entrust the message of God's salvation in Christ to men who would be faithful in telling it, because God remains faithful to His promise, even though we are faithless. The Samaritan cured of leprosy by Jesus returned to follow the One who brought God's healing to his body. He was prepared to follow Jesus who had revealed God's faithfulness to him.

**PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE:** Lord God, make me grateful for Your mercies every day as I tell others of Your faithfulness to Your people through Jesus Christ, my Savior. When I am faithless, recall me, that I may rejoice always in Your salvation. Amen.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** We show our gratitude to God for His great mercy in Christ's victory over sin and death on our behalf when we are faithful in our use of the many blessings from God's hand to spread the message of the good news.

**OFFERING PRAYER:** O Lord, You call us to be faithful in all we say and do.  
You shower us with Your blessings and mercies, always new!  
Now bless once more our worship and thankful songs of praise.  
And use these gifts to reach more hearts in faithful, loving ways. Amen.

**CONVICTION AND COMFORT:** Would that we were as faithful in relationships as Ruth! Or as committed to the truth of God's good news as Paul! Or as devoted in gratitude to the One who secured our healing from sin as the Samaritan leper! But we are not! Thanks be to God, in Christ Jesus, He is faithful to His covenant of grace, even when we are faithless.

**Questions to Consider:** Would you keep your promise to someone who broke a promise to you?

- What did Ruth discover is stronger than blood ties?
- How was Timothy urged to express his faithfulness to God?
- Where do you see faithfulness in the Samaritan leper?
- How are we like the Samaritan leper?

**Bonus on next page:** Hymn : For Years and their Seasons

## FOR YEARS AND THEIR SEASONS

For years and their seasons, For no other reasons  
Than his steadfast love that he showers on our race,  
God sought us and found us. He did keep his promise:  
He sent us a Savior, the gift of his grace.  
For caring and teaching, For loving and preaching,  
Christ sent out his witnesses through all the earth.  
By Christ's crucifixion And his resurrection  
We know that God's Spirit gave us a new birth.

In joy and when weeping, Awake and while sleeping,  
Secure in the hands of our God we have stood.  
With trouble around us, When blessings surround us,  
We trust in our Father for all that is good.  
With laughter and crying, While loved ones are dying,  
Secure in the hands of our Father we stand.  
We're growing and learning, With hearts ever yearning  
To be with our Savior in our Father's land.

Gilbert A. Franke

July, 1985, for the 125th Anniversary  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, William Penn, Texas  
Theme: "Secure in the Father's Hands"

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6 6 11 6 6 11 D  
(LW # 247, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing")