

LESSONS for the Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 5, 2016

Psalm 30 (antiphon: v. 5b) ~ *Praise for the Lord's deliverance from death.*

1 Kings 17:17-24 ~ *God affirmed Elijah's ministry by restoring the life of the Zarephath widow's son.*

Galatians 1:11-24 ~ *Paul affirmed the authenticity of the gospel he had received by revelation from Jesus.*

Luke 7:11-17 ~ *The news that Jesus had restored the life of the young man of Nain spread through Judea.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: When You Are Given a Second Chance, Take It!

When Elijah restored the widow's son to life, God gave Elijah a second chance to proclaim the reign of God in Zarephath. God called Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles when He rescued Paul from a life of persecuting the Church and revealed to him the Way of Life through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The young man from Nain received a second chance when Jesus restored him to life and gave him back to his widowed mother. God's gift of a new life to us in Christ gives us a second chance to live for Him.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Lord Jesus, Your victory over the grave has given me life in the face of death and joy in the midst of sorrow. Empower me to share the good news of your salvation with my family and friends, and even with strangers I will meet. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: When we look back at opportunities we have missed to use the blessings at our command, we long for a second chance to be God's blessing to those around us. The message of God's redeeming love in Christ is best shared in word and deed as we glorify God with our lives.

OFFERING PRAYER: Lord, use our lives and gifts we bring
to share Your love through Christ our King,
as we declare to everyone
eternal life in Your dear Son. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: The gospel of Christ, that God has rescued us from the death of sin and has sealed that life in the resurrection of our Lord, is the background of today's lessons. They speak of the opportunity to tell of that marvelous life to which God has called us. We often find ourselves in the chorus with the widow of Zarephath, accusing Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God?" Or we are with the crowd at Nain, lamenting the poor widow's misfortune in her son's death. God has not only given us a new and eternal life with Christ, but has also provided us a new opportunity to join the ranks of those who proclaim that the Word of the Lord is true, as we glorify God because of His message of redemption and spread the report throughout all the world.