

**Lessons for Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 6, 2016**

Psalm 148 (*antiphon: v 13*) ~ *This psalm calls to all creatures to praise God for their existence.*

Exodus 3:1-15 ~ *At the burning bush, God identified Himself as the eternal I AM, who preserves His people.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17 ~ *We rejoice that God has called us through the Gospel as heirs of His glory.*

Luke 20:27-40 ~ *In the resurrection we belong to God and live with Him for all eternity.*

**GATHERING THE TEXTS:** Assurance in Tough Times

When the Israelites were suffering under the heavy hand of Pharaoh, God sent His servant Moses to restore them to a land of their own supported by the strong power of the Eternal I AM. When we face troubling times as the believers in Thessalonica did under the persecution of the Romans, we can be sure that God has called us to the promise of His glory through Jesus Christ. Nothing can impede His love for us in Christ. We can be sure that through Christ Jesus, we belong to God in the resurrection and for all eternity.

**PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE:** Lord God, calm my troubled mind when I see peace disrupted in this world and the turmoil of godless ways overthrowing Your place in our society. Remind me that it is Your hand that restrains the lawless one and Your Word in Christ that has called me for eternity. Amen.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** In the resurrection, all believers belong to God. In this world everything that belongs to believers is at God's command to spread His kingdom and promote His glory.

**OFFERING PRAYER:** Lord, You have burst the limits of time upon our days;  
You claimed us now for glory, and called us to Your ways..  
So let there be no limits to what we do for You,  
That we may tell Your Story, in all we say and do. Amen.

**CONVICTION AND COMFORT:** Because we are limited in our powers and abilities, we despair when we see the lawless ways of this world overpowering and disrupting our lives. Sometimes we even give in to those lawless ways, thinking to "go along to get along." But God, who is from all time and will continue to all eternity, holds us in His grace and has given His Son to define the limits of the lawless one. Christ has defeated all His opposition and called us into His limitless glory.