Faith Returns Thanks to God and Worships Him in the Person of Christ Jesus



Background: The lessons for this weekend are all about **REDEMPTION!** Ruth a moabite and her mother in law Naomi have their lost land restored by Boaz in the book of Ruth. Their loyalty and faithfulness results in a moabite woman, (Ruth), becoming a saved child of God whose descendants included King David and Jesus Christ, the worlds redeemer. Luke tells of 10 lepers-Our gracious Savior

The Healing of the 10 Lepers James Tissot (1886 -'89)

reems them all, but only one returned to give thanks. Christ points out that the thankful leper was saved by his faith. Continuing the theme of focussing our lives on Christ and loyalty to His word, Paul emphasizes endurance and eliminate worldly distractions from your life. Of course, with modern conveniences, this may be hard to do. But as Abraham told the rich man, we have Moses and the prophets, and now the direct GOOD News of the Gospel as revealed in the New Testament. By dwelling in this word and regular use of the sacraments, The Holy Spirit gives us power to focus our lives in service to Him.

The Lessons: Ruth 1:1–19a, 2 Timothy 2:1–13, & Luke 17:11–19

Jesus comes in mercy and, by His Word, heals you in body and soul. "Go and show yourselves to the priests," for you are cleansed (Luke 17:14), and you are granted access to the Lord's temple. It is "at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks" (Luke 17:16), that you worship God, for Christ Jesus is your great High Priest; His body is the true temple. In Him, you "find rest, each of you in the house of her husband" (Ruth 1:9), for the Lord has "visited his people and given them food" (Ruth 1:6). The person of Jesus Christ lodges Himself in holy food — bread and wine for believers to eat and drink. You lodge where Jesus lodges; His Father is your God, His people are your people. Death cannot part you from Him because His death and resurrection are eternally yours through Holy Baptism. "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead" (2 Tim. 2:8). As surely as death could not hold Him, so surely "the word of God is not bound" (2 Tim. 2:9). His Gospel is entrusted "to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2), so that you "may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:10). Such is the confession of faith for all the saints, who believe, teach and confess the one Lord and Savior — Jesus Christ.