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| **Faith in God As Father**  *Promise: God claims us as His own, as His dear children* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Genesis 15:1-6; Psa 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-16; Luke 12:22-34 (9th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 14), 8/10/25  *“For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.”* – v. 30  **Lead In –** On the heels of Jesus’ parable of the Rich Fool, which was last week’s Reading, Jesus continues the discussion with His disciples. Unlike the rich farmer who was consumed with building a big nest egg, having built larger barns for the excess of the plentiful harvest, our Lord wants His disciples to pay attention and learn a lesson from the ravens and from the lilies. In short, He wants us to realize and treasure the outstanding gift of having God as our heavenly Father.   1. **Constant Threat of Becoming Spiritual Orphans**    1. Named as His adopted sons in Baptism…    2. Gift beyond imagining and beyond deserving…    3. And yet danger of playing the Prodigal Son… 2. **Just What Are We to Learn from Ravens and Lilies?**    1. No planting, harvesting, storehouse, or barn…    2. God clothed lilies, left to strive towards the light…    3. Free from worries so that we can seek what matters… 3. **Growing To Trust Our Fathers’ Care…**    1. Trust, saving faith, is a gift and fortified with the Word…    2. Strengthened as it is exercised, need to step out…    3. Generosity and holding things lightly…   **Final Word –** Friends in Christ, we have no idea of the immensity our heavenly Father’s abundance. His love is infinite and there is no depletion of it as He lavishes it on His creation, not the least of which are human beings made in His image. And His resources are without limit. The inheritance He has promised is not a lump sum. The enormous bounty that He promises my brother or sister does not diminish what is left over for me. And in the meanwhile, He promises to be with us and provide for us in the duration of the service He intends of us in this age. Don’t hoard this provision! The risk is becoming a spiritual orphan. Instead, hold it loosely with generosity knowing the true treasure is having God as your heavenly Father. Amen.  **Ga 3:26-27** In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.  **Jn 3:5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.  **Small Catechism:** “With these words [Our Father] God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear Father.”  **1Jn 3:1-3** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.  **The Parable of the Prodigal Son:** Is found in Luke 15:11-32 | **Luke 12:22-34 ESV**  *Do Not Be Anxious*  22[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 26If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? 27Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. 30For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.  32“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”  **Small Catechism (expl to 1st Article):** “He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.”  **Ep 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.  **Ro 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.  **He 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.  **2Co 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight.  **2Co 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. |

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