

Sermon for 10 November 2024 @ Bethesda UMC/Baltimore

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalter: (*Insert: alternate Leader and people*) Psalm 127;

Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Sermon

Just once every three years we read two Sundays of the Book of Ruth ... and because last Sunday was All Saints Sunday, we only get this one Sunday to read and reflect on the story of Ruth.

It's a lovely story, about lots of sad things, and then a very good thing, thing, which became the foundation of something very, very good in the history of the Jewish people. Read it, and then read it again, and see how Ruth's commitment to her mother-in-law Naomi paves the way to King David and, for us Christians to our own Lord Jesus.

Psalm 127 chants our belief that God lays the foundation for everything good and lasting, both small and large, in human history.

Hebrews continues its description of the ways God brought the details of a simple Hebrew family into our own faith in God;

And Mark gives us Jesus blessing the poor widow's donation in the temple, saying, "she, out of her poverty, has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

And we have voted in a new President.

Our Bishop wrote us a letter asking us to be faithful, honoring his election and being sure to uphold the Constitution, cease from fighting and disrespecting one another, and steadily to remember that we are to be salt of the earth in our relations and responsibilities to one another and under God.

Now, what more should be said?

I have the feeling that a long silence should now follow, rather like the Quakers do in their meetings. We have the microphone, and I can pass it around whenever the spirit moves, and a hand is raised. And then, if it seems right, we can close with one of the great creeds of the church. Let us do that now.