PRAISE

Thanksgiving

A Faithful Friend

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A Faithful Friend

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> *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever.*
>
> PSALM 107:1

As I prepared for a big Thanksgiving feast at our neighbor's ranch, I reached for a faithful friend.

Memories came rushing back the moment I picked up my old rolling pin. I was so young when we first crossed paths. Together we've created pies, brought laughter, comfort, and celebration to more tables than I can count. Once, that little tool even helped me win an apple pie contest in Coloma—the historic town where gold was first discovered in California.

But our story didn't begin with success. I still remember being a 19-year-old newlywed, sitting in church, listening to the preacher talk about how his wife learned to bake pies by doing the same thing over and over until she got it right.

My mother made the most incredible apple pies—layers of cinnamon and tender apples melting in your mouth. But at 19, in all my youthful independence, it never occurred to me to ask her for help. I wanted to figure it out on my own, so I reached for a companion who's stood by me ever since—my faithful rolling pin.

Last Christmas, new hands took hold of my treasured companion. My first grandson, Alex, soaked in the lessons I learned through years of trial and error. And his pie? Pure perfection.

This year's favorite—Chocolate Cream—is sure to bring smiles all over again.

Amid the joy, we also pause to remember those we've lost and the ups and downs this past year has held. With full hearts, we give thanks for our BEST companion—Yahweh, our Lord and Redeemer—who has walked every step with us, strengthening us when we feel weak and steadying us when the path feels uncertain.

The psalmist reminds us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 107:1) And Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

Last Sunday in our little church in Darby, Montana—where the church bell still rings faithfully each week—we sang my favorite Thanksgiving hymn by Don Moen. It still tugs at my heart every time.

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,' Let the poor say, 'I am rich,' Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!"

Always present. Always lifting us when we're weary. Truly, a faithful Friend for every season of life.

As we reflect, I'm reminded of a beautiful line from cyclist Kristin Armstrong: "When we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out and the tide of love rushes in."

How true that is. I am thankful for each of you—my loyal and steadfast friends.

May this Thanksgiving be blessed, your hearts full, and your gratitude anchored in the One who has been faithful through it all.

Karen Good

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