



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 4—YEAR C**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 32

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
remember your mercy and love.**

L: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

G: whose sins are covered.

L: When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon
me;

**G: my strength was sapped as in the heat of
summer.**

L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you

G: and did not cover up my iniquity.

L: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the
LORD,"

G: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

L: You are my hiding place;

G: you will protect me from trouble.

L: Many are the woes of the wicked,

**G: but the LORD'S unfailing love surrounds
those who trust in him.**

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
remember your mercy and love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone
make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your
mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us
through our earthly lives that we do not lose the
things you have prepared for us in heaven; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: May your priests be clothed with
righteousness; may your saints sing for joy.
(Psalm 132:9)**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: The journey from spiritual death to spiritual life begins with a recognition of guilt. We have sinned and fall short of fulfilling the Law of the Lord. Through contrition and repentance God prepares the heart to receive the gift of the Gospel.

As you study this week, seek to find the *connecting theme* in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 7:36-50

Jesus uses the parable of the money lender to show the Pharisees the value of forgiven debt. Tears of guilt and shame still flow in a repentant flood from the heart at Jesus' feet. The man who fails to see his own sin considers himself to have little need of a Savior. The heart of faith, however, recognizes its own debt of sin and can truly appreciate the depth of God's gracious forgiveness. The life of a Christian is one of constant repentance of sins, and trust in Christ for forgiveness.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON:

2 SAMUEL 11:26—12:10, 13-15

What a warning this lesson brings to Christians! What an admonition to daily contrition and repentance! Here is the infamous blight on the reign of King David. Unrepentance was leading to David's spiritual destruction. So the Lord sends Nathan to bring David to recognize his guilt and return to the Lord. The Lord's judgment is just and right. But such is the grace of our God, that immediately sinners who repent hear that the Lord has taken away their sins.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 2:11-21

The Law is necessary to show us our sins, to curb our actions, and to guide our lives. The Law, however, cannot save us; only the Gospel can. The sinful flesh continually tempts us to believe that God loves us because of who we are rather than in spite of who we are. Men came from Jerusalem and wanted the Galatians to believe that fulfilling the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament was a necessity for salvation. Paul shows us that not even Peter can change what God ordained: salvation is by grace.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:

2 CHRONICLES 33:1-6, 10-18

Here is the account of the abominable evil of Manasseh, King of Judah. Only after a brutal humbling and exile in Babylon did Manasseh recognize the error of his ways. Physically, emotionally, and spiritually crushed into humble repentance Manasseh returned to the Lord and knew his forgiving faithfulness. How true it is that God wants no one to be lost, but that each man turn from his wickedness and live!

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

Here is stern warning from the Lord through the Apostle Paul that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God. Included in this list of wickedness are many of the sins that are popular—even defended and admired—in our society today. Here is opportunity to preach on not only on such hot-button sins as homosexuality, but also the power the Spirit to wash, sanctify, and justify the repentant heart in the Lord Jesus.

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?