



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 5—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 22**

**A: Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**G: Why are you so far from saving me?**

L: I am a worm and not a man,

**G: scorned by men and despised by the  
people.**

L: All who see me mock me;

**G: they hurl insults, shaking their heads:**

L: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue  
him.

**G: Let him deliver him, since he delights in  
him."**

L: My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to  
the roof of my mouth;

**G: you lay me in the dust of death.**

L: A band of evil men has encircled me,

**G: they have pierced my hands and my feet.**

L: They divide my garments among them

**G: and cast lots for my clothing.**

L: But you, O LORD, be not far off;

**G: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.**

**A: Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and  
direct the affairs of this world so that your Church  
may worship you in peace and joy; through your  
Son, 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: Because we are his children, God has sent  
the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,  
"Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:6 cf. NIV)**

**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:

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost:** Is faithfulness to Christ worth the trouble it brings? The life of faith is lived in a godless world, and it is therefore certain to be met with persecution. Like our Suffering Savior, we too bear his cross in our daily interactions with the unholy trio. The Lord, however, uses these persecutions suffered for the sake of the Gospel to refine us into the pure, precious metal of his children. Strengthened through the means of grace, we boldly confess Jesus as the Christ in the face of any persecution or trouble. The Church prays that God in his mercy would direct the affairs of this world so that the Church might have peace, but at the same time we prepare ourselves for persecution.

**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 9:18-24

In a private moment, Jesus offers the disciples an opportunity to confess their faith. They confess Jesus as "the Christ of God." These men so bold in faith have no idea what lies ahead. Jesus warns them of his impending suffering and glorious resurrection. But the suffering is not his alone. To all who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior come trials and suffering on account of his name. We bear his cross on our heads and hearts at the risk of our lives. But to him who overcomes is given the crown of eternal life.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ZECHARIAH 13:7-9

In this prophetic vision of Jesus as the suffering Messiah, the Shepherd is struck and the flock is scattered. The sound of disciples' feet fleeing into the darkness first fulfilled this prophesy in the Garden of Gethsemane. Yet God makes a promise: suffering for the Gospel is his way of refining his children. As fire removes impurities from gold and silver, so persecution refines the faith of God's people. Only with this knowledge can we understand what Luther meant when he said that the absence of persecution is total persecution.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 3:23-29

How can a Christian rejoice even in the suffering and persecution? When we know that these sufferings are for the sake of Christ who bought us and made us his heirs. We confess Christ even in the face of persecution because we belong to Christ and look forward to an inheritance that no suffering, no evil, no attack can take away from us. Paul contrasts the harsh imprisonment of the law with the gracious freedom of the gospel that comes through faith. In this contrast we see how the Lord can use the trials of life and temptations of the heart to build deeper appreciation for his gracious salvation in Jesus Christ. Through baptism, we have been made equal and unified heirs of the promise, boldly claiming our inheritance from the Father.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL: GENESIS 39:6B-12, 16-23

Is faithfulness to Christ worth the trouble it brings? Under daily pressure, Joseph knew the struggle of contemplating that question. When confronted with the blatant seduction of evil, he boldly confessed his obedience to the Lord only to find himself wrongly imprisoned. Yet even through this trial the Lord blessed Joseph, preparing him for future leadership and the saving of many lives. God had not forgotten him; God was refining him; God was preparing him for future service.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL: HEBREWS 11:24-26

Is faithfulness worth the trouble it brings? For Moses, faithfulness meant giving up power, riches, and pleasure so great that the world still marvels at ancient Egypt's glories. Even more than abstaining from these, faithfulness meant Moses would leave nobility behind and identify himself with an enslaved people. Such trouble for being faithful! Moses, however, knew the Hope of Israel and regarded this disgrace for the sake of Christ to be worth more than all the treasures of Egypt.

*My takeaways:*

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