



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 6—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 62

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: My soul finds rest in God alone;

G: my salvation comes from him.

L: He alone is my rock and my salvation;

G: he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

L: Find rest, O my soul, in God alone;

G: my hope comes from him.

L: Though your riches increase,

G: do not set your heart on them.

L: My salvation and my honor depend on God;

G: he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

L: Trust in him at all times, O people;

**G: pour out your hearts to him, for God is our
refuge.**

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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: If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (Mark 8:34b)

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:

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Following Christ calls for total commitment. The life of faith walks in lock step with the will of God and does not following the meandering ways of this world. Elisha's response to the Lord's call stands in contrast to the initially willing, but ultimately uncommitted "followers" of Jesus. Our Prayer of the Day says it well, "Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises..." and our Verse of the Day aptly summarizes the Sunday.

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 9:51-62

Following Christ leaves no room for vengeance, self-preservation or wrong priorities. So many want to follow Jesus, but only if a life of faith can be lived as much *of* the world as *in* the world. Breathless excitement wasn't enough; cultural conventions weren't enough; not even seemingly loving acts were enough to change Jesus' claim: Following Christ is all or nothing—it calls for total commitment.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 19:14-21

Elisha is called to follow Elijah in proclaiming the Word of the Lord to Israel. He answered the all or nothing call of God with total commitment by burning his oxen and plow. There would be no looking back. He promptly leads his family in a farewell thanksgiving celebration and then left them behind to follow Elijah. Let us put our hand to the plow and look only ahead to the eternal harvest.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 5:1, 13-25

We were once yoked in slavery to sin and the Law. Now, set free from evil, our new found freedom does not lead to waywardness or being yoked again by sin. We are called to leave behind our life of sin and not look back to it. Rather, we follow Christ completely and with willing hearts we joyfully serve the Lord, walking in step with the Spirit.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JONAH 3:3-4:4

Jonah could best be described as the Lord's reluctant prophet. Jonah thought he could outmaneuver God, but a fish spit him back into line with the Lord's will. He preached the Word and to his dismay saw enemy of Israel in the dust and ashes of repentance. Jonah would rather have died than seen the mercy of the Lord showered upon them. He was unwilling to commit to God's will and leave behind his hatred and prejudice. God calls Jonah to leave them behind and instead follow him on the path of mercy and forgiveness.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 11:21B-30

How easy it would have been for Paul to give up the Way to return to the way of the world! Yet by grace, through faith, Paul continued to follow Christ. Even in the face of a host of dangers and hardships he did not look back. Every Christian is called to similarly follow Christ with unswerving devotion.

My takeaways:

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