



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 17—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 51a**

**A: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

L: Have mercy on me, O God,

**G: according to your unfailing love.**

L: Wash away all my iniquity,

**G: and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: For I know my transgressions,

**G: and my sin is always before me.**

L: Against you, you only, have I sinned

**G: and done what is evil in your sight.**

L: Surely I was sinful at birth,

**G: sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

L: Hide your face from my sins,

**G: and blot out all my iniquity.**

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**G: and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**A: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; 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: Everything that was written in the past  
was written to teach us, so that through  
endurance and the encouragement of the  
Scriptures we might have hope.  
(Romans 15:4 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:

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:** The believer loves the lost like Christ. The righteous live by faith; yet how easy it is for the righteous to slip into self-righteous judgment of other sinners, forgetting the grace that has been shown them. Today Christ calls us to love the lost like he does and rejoice over every sinner that “once was lost, but now is found.”

**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 15:1-10

The difference between the truly righteous and the merely self-righteous can be seen in the attitude displayed by the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. The Savior of nations spent even his meal times with those clamoring to know his forgiveness, while his detractors condemned him for associating himself with such worthlessness. The temptation is to place the lost and straying on the irrecoverable list without making the effort to “seek and save.” The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin describe not only the heavenly joy at a sinner’s repentance, but the priority placed on such a recovery mission. Jesus calls us to love the lost both because of their place in the flock and because of their intrinsic worth in the eyes of God.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 32:7-14

The account of the Golden Calf at Mt. Sinai illustrates humankind’s total depravity. At the same time, we see Moses pleading for Israel. Rather than cheering on the Lord’s divine retribution against the ungodly, we, like Moses, hold God to his promises of faithfulness to the lost and straying. In his mercy, the Lord restores the repentant heart and preserves his chosen people for eternity, even during the darkest of days.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: TIMOTHY 1:12-17

Pentecost 17-24 provides a series of readings through 1 and 2 Timothy. Few have the depth of appreciation for God’s grace as the Apostle Paul. Paul’s self-accusations of “persecutor” and “blasphemer” do not fall far short of us. Our sinful hearts, once hostile to the Lord and his love, have known the same grace poured out so abundantly on Paul. With “the chief of sinners” we offer thanks for our rescue and rejoice in our restored position in the Father’s flock. Let us always be like Paul, who never forgot the grace shown to him, and so was always ready to love the lost with Christ’s seeking and forgiving love.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: HOSEA 3:1-5

To illustrate the Lord’s grace to idolatrous Israel, Hosea is instructed to marry and love an adulterous woman. The action of showing love to one considered so undeserving spoke a volume of God’s grace to sinners. When a sinner comes seeking to find the goodness of God, he finds the joyful and welcoming arms of our faithful God.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

Satan’s schemes can twist even the act of repentance into an opportunity to plunge a soul into the depths of despair. Will the repentant man return with heart in hand only to have that heart trampled by self-righteous hypocrites who feel they are owed their due? No, the congregation is to show Christ’s love for the lost. Forgiveness and comfort are to be given to the penitent heart rather than heaping guilt over the sinner’s head and robbing the contrite heart of the joy of salvation.

*My takeaways:*

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