INVOCATION

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 146
A: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.
L: Praise the LORD, O my soul.
G: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
L: Do not put your trust in princes,
G: in mortal men, who cannot save.
L: Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,
G: the maker of heaven and earth.
L: The LORD gives food to the hungry,
G: the LORD sets prisoners free.
L: The LORD gives sight to the blind,
G: the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.
L: The LORD watches over the outcast
G: and sustains the fatherless and the widow.
L: The LORD remains faithful forever.
G: He upholds the cause of the oppressed.
A: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
L: Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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: At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10, 11 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

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READING AND MEDITATION:

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Real wealth is found in heavenly treasure. Earthly riches are not a reward for doing good, but rather an opportunity to do good.

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 16:19-31

The rich man loved his wealth more than doing the will of the Lord: helping those in need. Hoarding of wealth for one’s own pampering manifests the poverty of one’s soul. In a heartbeat, the greedy will go from extravagance to begging for mercy. But it is too late. Not even their wealth will buy them relief. Here is also comfort for the righteous poor. Though not blessed with wealth in this life, they will have good things forever in paradise.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: AMOS 6:1-7

The rich of the two kingdoms were using their wealth to live in luxury rather than to bring about spiritual restoration. They dined on choice meat and fine wine while the chosen House of Israel was falling into spiritual ruin and headed for divine judgment. How the Lord would have poured forth blessings on them from the storehouses of heaven had they put the Lord and his kingdom work first in their hearts. Instead, they chose luxury over love and destruction over deliverance.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-16

Godliness with contentment leads the faithful steward to a life marked by faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Content with our needs, we make faithful use of the Lord’s blessings to carry out his kingdom work. Use of money for God’s loving purposes, avoids the love of money itself. We, then, fight the good fight to break the grasp of mammon and take hold of the eternal life to which we are called.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: ECCLESIASTES 5:8-20

Solomon instructs his listeners on faithful work combined with gratitude to God. Hoarded wealth brings only harm to its owner. Earthly wealth is fleeting; to chase after it is as fruitless as chasing after the wind.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 2:8-11

To the church in Smyrna: Here is comfort for the faithful who find themselves on the side of the poor and oppressed. In spite of physical poverty and persecution, lasting wealth is found only in Jesus, our priceless treasure. He has guaranteed for the faithful a “crown of life.”

My takeaways:

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

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