INVOCATION

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 27
A: The Lord is my light and my salvation -- of whom shall I be afraid, of whom shall I be afraid?
L: Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;
G: be merciful to me and answer me.
L: Do not hide your face from me,
G: do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.
L: Do not reject me or forsake me,
G: O God my Savior.
L: Though my father and mother forsake me,
G: the LORD will receive me.
L: I am still confident of this:
G: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
L: Wait for the LORD;
G: be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.
A: The Lord is my light and my salvation -- of whom shall I be afraid, of whom shall I be afraid?
READING AND MEDITATION:

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: It is the believer's duty to abstain from sin, give forgiveness, and serve our neighbor. It is a privilege to do our duty as Christians, but we are weak. The Church, therefore, prays that God would make us ready to do with a cheerful heart that which pleases him.

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 17:1-10

Repentance and forgiveness mark the believer's life of faith. Knowledge of one's own forgiveness in Jesus leads to a forgiving heart and thanksgiving to the King of Grace. Jesus again uses the imagery of master and servants to illustrate the relationship between the Lord and believers. Service to the Lord must never lead to self-righteousness. Rather, we do our duty by abstaining from sin, giving forgiveness, and serving our neighbor.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-14

Because of the grace given us through our Lord Jesus, we are called to serve the Lord's kingdom. Like Paul, Timothy, and the saints of the ages we do our duty by guarding the faith and proclaiming the truth. This truth of God's grace in Christ has now been fulfilled and revealed. Look at all the imperatives Paul speaks to this young pastor! The Apostle encourages Timothy and all Christians to do our duty and serve Christ who called us because of his own purpose and grace.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: HABAKKUK 1:1-3, 2:1-4

With the world crumbling into ruin and evil seemingly unchecked, the believer is tempted to question God's power or God's providence. But the Christian is called to do his duty. We are to stand and watch and wait for God's answer to all our questions. The Word of the Lord comes to comfort and command. The deliverance of God's people is at hand. Stand at the ready and proclaim his Word. Have confidence that the Lord's judgment is coming and along with it, his salvation. This is how the righteous will live: by faith.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: CHRONICLES 29:1-2, 10-18

Faithful servants do their duty with joy and gratitude. David rejoices before the assembly of the people that such gifts have been given and dedicated for the building of the Lord's temple. At the same time, David rejoices that the Lord has given his people the opportunity to give these gifts. Everything comes from the Lord's hand, and it is our duty to serve him and his kingdom.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 6:15-23

Oh, how we have been slaves to the sinful nature, giving into temptation and harboring hostility for our righteous and holy God! This slavery to sin would have led to our eternal death. Indeed, our connection with sin will result in our temporal death. But this condition will not end in final death. The gift of God's eternal life has come through Jesus. Our suffering servant has freed us. No longer are we slaves to sin. We have been freed for righteousness in faithful service to our heavenly Master. Now let us do our duty and serve him by abstaining from sin, giving forgiveness, and serving our neighbor.

My takeaways:

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