



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 23—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 119b

A: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

L: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;

G: then I will keep them to the end.

L: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law

G: and obey it with all my heart.

L: Direct me in the path of your commands,

G: for there I find delight.

L: Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

G: preserve my life according to your Word.

L: Fulfill your promise to your servant,

G: so that you may be feared.

L: How I long for your precepts!

G: Preserve my life in your righteousness.

A: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your Church, as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins, but in peace and forgiveness; 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: The Lord will rescue me from every evil
and will bring me safely to his heavenly
kingdom. (2 Timothy 4:18 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:

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost: God calls the believer to First Commandment faith that serves God above all.

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 18:18-27

The rich ruler served his wealth rather than God. Brought face-to-face with his own idolatry, he went away deeply saddened. He could not put his Savior above all else. Regardless of whether or not we consider ourselves rich, the struggle to put discipleship ahead of the world remains. Yet even the seemingly impossible is possible with God.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 10:12-22

After forty years of wandering, Moses speaks to the people, retelling their history since Egypt. Again and again the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, has come to our aid and demonstrated his love for his people from the greatest to the least. Every time we see and hear the mercy and grace of God, the Spirit works in us a First Commandment faith. Now fear and serve the LORD with all your heart and soul.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

Paul recognizes that his time on earth is short. The Lord is about to bring glory to his own name through Paul's martyrdom. Yet what is in store for Paul is a crown of righteous from the Lord's gracious hand. There are those who put their own safety ahead of service to God and support for his kingdom work. But for those who put him first, the Lord is faithful and will bring us to his heavenly kingdom. Paul had spent a life in ministry serving Christ above all; now he looked forward to the end of the fight, the rest from the race, and the receipt of the crown.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JOSHUA 7:1, 19-26

Even while on a mission for the Lord, Achan gave priority to his own greed over carrying out the will of the Lord. In so doing he brought guilt on all Israel and judgment on his own head. Our stealing from God may not be so blatant as pulling money from the offering. But what do we withhold from the Lord for the sake of luxury? How often does a balanced checkbook come at the expense of our offerings? As difficult as it seems, we can put the Lord first in our lives. With the miraculous working of the Spirit in our hearts comes the joy of serving the Lord in full obedience and with a whole heart. To us and through Jesus, the narrow way is wide open.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 2:15-17

John warns the faithful not to love the world because it leaves no room to love the Father. The things of this world that call out for our love are not from God and will not last. But the man who serves God above all will live forever.

My takeaways:

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