INVOCATION

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 145

A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
   as we place our trust in you.
L: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
G: his greatness no one can fathom.
L: One generation will commend your works to another;
G: they will tell of your mighty acts.
L: The LORD upholds all those who fall
G: and lifts up all who are bowed down.
L: They eyes of all look to you,
   and you give them their food at the proper time.
G: You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
L: The LORD is near to all who call on him,
G: to all who call on him in truth.
L: He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
G: he hears their cry and saves them.
A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
   as we place our trust in you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord God, forgive the wrongdoing of your people and be gentle with us in our weakness. Deliver us from the bondage of our sin and direct us to the path of righteousness; 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: Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
(2 Peter 3:18a 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

Visit www.BreadForBeggars.com for more resources.
READING AND MEDITATION:

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: The Half Year of the Church concludes with the foundation for the believer’s life of faith. Here is our power and motivation for living the Christian life; here is the comfort when we fail: the Lord is the Savior of sinners.

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 19:1-10

Jesus seeks out Zacchaeus in the tree and invites himself into Zacchaeus’ heart and home. No sin is so evil, no guilt is so great as to turn away our Savior’s seeking love. Salvation came to Zacchaeus’ home that day even as Salvation has come to us. In humble joy we welcome him and his presence that brings about an immediate response of faith. Zacchaeus may have been one of Abraham’s descendants by blood, but he and all of us are children of Abraham by faith. Praise be to God that Christ is the Savior of sinners.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 34:5-9

Moses appears before the Lord to plead for mercy on behalf of the rebellious and idolatrous Israelites. Though the Lord warns of judgment against the guilty, he proclaims the meaning of his name to be the God of free and faithful grace. The chosen nation of Israel had already wandered from the Lord, but he comes with forgiveness to those who repent. These words appear again and again in the inspired pages of scripture as the LORD again and again, fulfilling the meaning of his own name and restoring the spirit of his children. The LORD is the Savior of sinners.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5, 11, 12

Paul commends the Thessalonians for their faithfulness to the Lord even in the midst of trial and persecution. Paul says this is evidence that God’s judgment is right. He had forgiven them and called them his own children. God’s grace meant glory for Christ in them and glory for them in Christ.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: MICAH 7:18-20

Who is a God like you? You delight to show mercy! In the last days of the Kingdom of Israel and with judgment looming for the Kingdom of Judah, Micah proclaims the joy the Lord will take in bringing Salvation to the remnant of the House of Israel. Because Salvation has now come, children of Abraham throughout the ages have known the only true God and the mercy he shows. The LORD is the Savior of sinners and in his compassion he treads sin under foot and hurls iniquities into the sea.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 5:6-11

The gracious planning of our faithful Lord is fulfilled and the Salvation of our God has come, but not to souls deserving of a place in the Kingdom of heaven. No, Jesus came to seek and save enemies and sinners, to find those who could be made righteous only by grace. To us, then, the love of the Lord been shown. Such is the message of reconciliation: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” This change has been accomplished through his death, and even more so, through his life. This is our joy and confidence: the Lord is the Savior of sinners.

My takeaways:

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